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LETTERS TO WASHINGTON

FROM THOMAS H. MARSHALL, ESQ.

MARYLAND, the 12th March 1770.

SIR

Your's of the 10th Ins^t I Rec^d and have now before me, tho' was not at home at the time it was brought to my House. Am Verry sorry any Act of Mine should give the Least Surprize, or Concern, to any Gent^l. Whatever, as it was not, or is, the Least of my Intentions so to do ; As to any Testimony to make it appear there was no misapprehension, in Regard to the Proposals Made and agre'd to between us, Relative to the Slipes of Land, I have nothing more to say, than I am Possitive it was not my Intention, to make such an agreement as you mention, tho' make not the Least Doubt But you apprehended it in that light. I never had the least Doubt or Suspetion, that you would order the least Incroachment, on mine or any other Persons Property (Designedly) which was the Reason I Imputed the timber cut down on my Land, was owing to a Misapprehension, in our Bargain — I have not forgot (I think) any Material Part of the Conversation that Passed between us, Relative to the Land, Nor never denied any Part to my knowledg. The End that a cash Price was agreed to (as I took

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it) was upon its being mentioned there was a Possibility of M^r Alexander's never having it in his Power to Convey the Land in Maryland, I then said, should that be the case, I would then Receive a Certain Price in Cash p^r Acc^t for them slipes, this was my Sense and Meaning of the Matter, and thought I was understood so — &c.

You signify that my Conversation with M^r Alexander and Manly is a Proof that I Looked on them slipes of Land to be sold to you, for a Certain sum of Cash. Beleeve me Sir, you know me not, If you think I would alter in the Least, from any Bargain I had made, (agreable to my Sense and Meaning) had it have been a Matter of much graver Consequence to me, than that now Between us, — As to the Conversation I had with M^r Manly, If I Remember right was nearly this, At Poseys sale Manly was mentioning sumthing to me in Regard to the Slipe of Land of mine adjoining his plantation, that he would Ither Rent or Purchase, I Replyed that I was on a Bargain for the same with Col: Washington, or I might Possabilly have said I had bargained for it, As I at that time might not have had any Doubt but that the same Quantity of Land would be given up to me in Maryland, convenient to my Plantation, &c.

As to what M^r Alexander informed you, of his answer to my Let^r to him, said Answer will shew whether it is agreable to what you mention, And as to the Conversation M^r Alexander said Passed Between^{us} when he last saw me, I must absolutely Deny. As No such Conversation Ever Passed between me and the Tenant, Consequently could not (in Truth) pass between

M^r Alexander and me; However on the Whole I Declare I looked on our Agreement as I have already Expressed, That is, on the same Quantity of Land being given into my Possession, Adjoining my Plantation in Maryland (the Ruf Draft M^r Alexander has will shew the forme) I was then to give you up them slipes of Land, Between the Road and River, and in case M^r Alexander should not be able (Hearafter) to make a good Right to the Land in Maryland, so as to ~~make~~ convey to me, then and in such Case, I was to Receive a Certain Price of you p^r Acc^t for them Slipes of Land above mentioned, this I was Ready to Comply with; My Let^r to M^r Alexander will shew the application I made to him. Pressing him to let me be on sum Sertenty, the Answer to which I have already given you; I never had the least Doubt but M^r Washington could at any time Pay a much Larger sum than them Slipes of Land would have cum to had I agreed for Cash, but as I did not ^{nor now do} Look on our agreement in that Light, That Matter never once Entered my thoughts.

I am your Verry Hble serv^t

THO^s HA^N MARSHALL

FROM THE HON. G. W. FAIRFAX, ESQ.

BELVOIR, March 12th 1770

DEAR SIR

I think you are extremely right in not submitting to M^r Barrys ¹ terms, and I wish it was in my Power

¹ John Barry.

to give you a more Satisfactory Acco^t of what you desire, not only to oblige you, but to flusterate Barrys intentions for I despise such. — All I know about M^r: Russells¹ Claim to the Chaple Lands, is from a Will now in my Possession of M^r: Johnstons,² wherein he devises all his Real & Personal Estate to M^r: Russell, who particularly desired me to litigate the matter with the present Possessor, and to take Possession of the Place on Bull Skin where Patrick Mathews lived.³ the latter I did, but did not choose to take up a dispute of that sort with a neighbour, and since I have heard that M^r: Waller⁴ or some of the Gent^l below are employ'd to Prosecute it.

When Doctor Cockburn⁵ wanted to purchase the Land, I remember the bar to it ^{was} from M^r: Johnstons not being willing to join in the conveyance unless they would pay him a hundred pounds, and the Doctor shew'd me old M^r: Mercers opinion which was clear in Johnstons favor, and since it has been corroborated by that of the Attorney Gen^l in England, but how just I cant pretend to say, I suppose you know that Jonston administered on Browns Estate and has paid several Sums of Money, not only for the Principal, but to his Widow in lieu of Dower, &c^a and that the Act of Limitation will not run against M^r: Russell in this Case. Tho I must confess I wish it was determined one way or another, if

¹ William Russell, of Fairfax County.

² Captain George Johnston, of Fairfax County.

³ Washington in his *Ledger* describes this land as "552 Acres of Land on the south fork of Bullskin."

⁴ Benjamin Waller, of Williamsburg?

⁵ Martin Cockburn was from the West Indies, and Mrs. Cockburn was a Miss Bronaugh, a relative of the Masons, of Gunston. — BISHOP MEADE.

in M^r Russells favor I am to have the refusal, and in that case you should be soon accomidated, and I Question whether you cannot do it now, for you must know your and the Chaple Corner Tree near the Road, which is also ^{mine} ~~my~~ and I believe yours, for upon running my Line it takes in a slipe of Land joining along the Creek. However Sir, I will look over some Papers, and perhaps may give you a better insight to this affair, shortly.

Col^o & M^r Fairfax joins in their Comp^s to you M^r Washington and Miss Custis, with

Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t humble Serv^t

G. W. FAIRFAX

FROM THE REV. MR. COOPER TO THE REV. MR. BOUCHER.

KING'S COLLEGE,¹ NEW YORK, 22^d Mar. 1770.

MY DEAR SIR,

I hold myself much obliged to you for good will, as well as good offices, towards this College, as instanced in your Conduct respecting M^r Custis: and I am under still weightier Obligation, when I consider your very friendly Suspension of Belief, with Regard to some Reports, which, You tell me, have been circulated in your parts to our prejudice. I am conscious that we have Enemies in Abundance — that every Dissenter of high principles, upon the Continent, is our Enemy — that many of their Missiona-

¹ A bill was ordered, October 22, 1746, to raise £250 by lottery towards erecting a college, and from that humble start Columbia College, known at first as King's College, has grown. — ROBERTS' *New York*.

ries, from the northern into the southern provinces, make it their Business, nay, have it in Charge from their Masters, to decry this Institution by all *possible* Means; *because* they are convinced, from its very Constitution — (being in the Hands only of Churchmen, — which is very far indeed from being the Case of any other College to y^e northward of Virginia, — and I know of none to the southward of it — they are convinced) that it must eventually prove one of the firmest Supports to y^e Church of England in America :

Hence there arose an Opposition coeval with y^e College itself — or, rather, with the very first Mention of an Institution so circumstanced; which hath been continued, without Interruption, to this very Day, with much Resentment, Inveteracy, and Malice.¹ The College of New Jersey — and those of New England — were already in their own sole Direction, and yet they could not be satisfied that y^e poor Church should have any Influence in one: not that Dissenters of any Denomination are excluded from

¹ Trinity Church gave the college a part of its estate in 1752, and over an effort to place the control under Episcopal supervision a controversy arose which divided parties and arrayed partisans, so that in politics as well as in religion Presbyterian and Episcopalian served as distinctive titles. — ROBERTS' *New York*. This dissension began even before the gift to King's College in 1752. Trinity Church rented from Governor Fletcher in 1697 a tract of sixty-two acres of land known as the King's Farm and Garden, situated north of the present Fulton Street, between Broadway and the Hudson River. Originally this land had belonged to Anneke Jans Bogardus, and by her heirs was sold to Governor Lovelace in 1667, but the deed transferring the property was not signed by her grandson, Cornelius Bogardus, or his mother. In 1746 the descendants of this Cornelius Bogardus laid claim to the property, and a long contest with the Church was begun. As the Bogardus family were Presbyterians, this continued dispute, enhanced by the controversy over the control of the college, led to such bitter partisanship that it entered even the politics of the day, until the contending political parties in New York became known as the Episcopal or Aristocratic party and the Presbyterian or Livingston party.

either Learning or Teaching; nay, we have educated many, and have several at this very Time, who do Honour both to us and themselves.

However, owing either to the very Opposition, or to our own Care & Circumspection, — which may, perhaps, have arisen from the former, our numbers yearly encrease, and our present Apartments overflow. It would ill become anyone, to boast of the Advantages enjoyed by a Seminary over which he himself presides: but I will venture to affirm, that, with Respect to *Discipline* (which, it seems is one heavy Accusation exhibited against us,) we are far from being outdone by any College on the American Continent: and I ^{are} know of none in Europe, to which, in this Article, we ^{are} really inferior. Add to this, that the Expence — however such Things may be magnified by our Adversaries, is not half so much as at any of the latter; and, I believe very little, if at all, more, than at most of the former. Our Tuition is only five pounds — one Doll^r passing for 8 Shillings — New York Currency; Room-rent four; and Board, including Breakfast, Dinner and Supper, at y^e Rate of eleven Shillings a Week, for y^e Time each Student is actually in College. Those, (saving Firewood, Candles, & Washing, which must be had every where) are the principal Expences, indeed almost the only ones, of the truly Collegiate kind: *Others*, indeed, *may* run higher — as in Dress, and *sometimes* in Company, than they do at Colleges in the Country; tho' even these will not be materially different to a Student of *real gentility*: For such a one will chuse to appear handsomely-habited in all Situations; and

when he *does* go into Company, he will chuse the best for his Associates.

With Regard to our plan of Education, it is copied, in the most material parts, from Queen's College in Oxford; with the whole System of which (having been for many years both Learner and Teacher in that Seminary, with the Character of which you are by no means unacquainted,) I looked upon myself as perfectly ~~acquainted~~ familiar:

The young Gentleman's Guardian may rely on every Thing in my Power for his Ward's Emolument: but as to my turning *private Tutor*, as it were — it seems to me so inconsistent with my Office (whatever others in my situation may think of it) that I must beg to be excused. But I repeat — That I will shew M^r Custis every Mark of Care & Attention, and see that his other Teachers shall do the same.

I have only to add, that I *wish* he may be here in June, as we do not ^{enter} ~~admit~~ pupils when absent — that I beg my best Respects to Col^l Washington, whom I shall be exceedingly happy to wait upon in New York (yourself, I hope, in Company) — and that I am, D^r S^r y^r aff^c Friend

and very obed^t servant &c

M COOPER.

I hope you will have patience with me, —
at present I suffer much by a severe
Fit of the Gravel.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

D^R. SIR

I felt so strongly the Truth of your Remarks, that I took Shame to myself for having reduc'd You to so distressing a Dilemma. Believe it however, Sir, that it was Necessity & not Inclination, that urged Me to the Step, which yet I sh^d hardly have taken, at last, cou'd I have supposed the Circumstances of Mast^r Custis's Estate to have been as you represent them.

I have now the Pleasure to inform You that I trust my present Difficulty will be surmounted, with^t laying my Friends under a Contribution — I am almost sure it will, if M^r Claiborne will only be punctual in paying his £50, which I was Security for. A Debt, of long standing, & which I had almost despair'd of, fortunately for Me, has just been paid : & This, with some Collections I have made from the Estate of a deceased Friend, on w^{ch} I administered, have enabled me to make up my sum of £230. this last, indeed, was an Expedient I very unwillingly had Recourse to ; but I now learn, by Experience, that real Distress is very Effectual in teaching a Man to get the Better of certⁿ delicate Qualms of Conscience — & let This teach Me to view, wth Candor, the Peccadillos of Others in similar Circumstances. I purpose replacing This with what I am to receive of You on Mast^r Custis's Acc^t, &, therefore, if not highly inconvenient to You, wou'd this Year prefer a Bill to Cash. And shou'd I again be obliged to call on You before it is due, as I hope I shall not, I flatter myself with being again excused.

— Might not your proposed Improvem^t of y^e Navigaⁿ of the Potomac to the W^tward be accomplished on some such Plan as This? I mean by obtain^t an Act of Assembly, empowering certⁿ Commissioners ~~to be~~ therein named to borrow the Sum supposed to be wanted, at a high Interest (suppose 10 p^r Cent) & this Interest to be rais'd f^m a Tax proportioned thereto, on all y^e Vessels mak^t Use of s^d Navigaⁿ? Or, if y^e Navigaⁿ w^d bear it, w^c tho p^rhaps it might not at first, yet, undoubtedly it soon would, might not this Tax be rated so, as to produce a considerable Surplus, enough not only to sink the original Loan, but to raise a Fund for still farth^r Improve^{m^t}. — Are not some of the Canals in Engl^d, & y^e Turnpike on this System? &, if I mistake not, the very grand Canal now carrying on in Scotland is so too. — You, doubtless, have heard long ago w^t was done on this Matter by the Maryland Assembly; but, as I fear, f^m y^e Acc^t of Things, our Assembly w^d not easily be persuaded to advance any Cash towards the Scheme, tho' I can have no immediate Interest in it, I sh^d be grieved so beneficial a Project sh^d be dropp'd.

I guess my Friend M^r Addison¹ met with some Difficulties in y^e Bargain He proposed to make for Me, as I have never heard from Him nor about the Boy.

Custis, who, as well as myself, is but just return'd from a Trip I took Him into Richmond County, is gone to write to his Mamma, to whom, & to Miss

¹ Rev. Walter Dulany Addison, of Annapolis, a lifelong friend and warm admirer of Dr. Boucher.

Custis, with many Thanks for th^r obliging Helps to my Garden, I beg my affectionate Compliments.

I am, very respectfully, Sir,

Y^r Obed^t Hble Serv^t

JONA^N BOUCHER

CAROLINE

April 2^d

1770.

FROM ROBERT H. HARRISON, ESQ.¹

SIR

I am of Opinion that by the Common Law, you cannot divert the natural course of the Run by cutting of a Race through your own Land; It being stated by M^r Washington that thereby J Barry would be deprived of Water necessary for his Cattle &c. . . . As on the authorities . . . 1 Bar Abgt 45-54-Carth 117-Com 69-5 Mod &c.²

I also am of Opinion that was a Jury by an Order of Court founded on a petition preferred by you, agreeable to the Directions of the Act of Assembly made in 1748³ ch. 26 (Vid the Act) to report that introducing a Race thro your Land, would deprive J Barry or the person Intitled to the Land from necessary water, that the Court would Reject your petition; and should they not do It, that Barry might maintain an Action upon his Case against you for any Damage or Injury sustained by means of your diverting

¹ Robert Hanson Harrison was born in Maryland, 1745; became Secretary to Washington, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, November 6, 1775; was made Chief Justice of the Maryland General Court, March 10, 1781; and declined an appointment to the United States Supreme Court in 1789. He died at his home upon the Potomac in Charles County, Maryland, April 2, 1790.

² Barnardiston, Carthew, Comberbach, and Modern Reports.

³ Hening, vol. vi. p. 55.

of his water; and that for every new Injury which would probably happen once every year, he might maintain a New Action — I must therefore Advise you to obtain his consent by an Instrument of Writing for that purpose — If you should, you will still be Subject to the same Inconvenience from the Heir at Law or person Intitled to The Land after Barry's death unless you can procure his or her consent then or now, If of full age, as no Agreement of Barry can bind longer than his life he being Tenant by the Curtesy only

I am, Sir

Y^r most Obed^t H Servt

ROB H: HARRISON

Aprill 5th 1770

FROM THOMAS H. MARSHALL, ESQ.

MARYLAND the 8th of April 1770

SIR/

Your's Acquainting me that M^r West had Promised to be at your house this Afternoon, In order to Run the Dividing Line between Washington & Spencer, came to hand, tho' am afrade shall not be able to give my self the Pleasure of Wating on ^{you} in the Morning, Owing to a Verry severe Cold, which affects me in such a Manner, that I can scarsly git a Moment's Rest Should I be Better in the Morning will wate on you Arly. However should I not, don't Doubt but you and M^r West will Lay the dividing ^{Line} of, agreeable to the True Intent and Desine thereof

I am y^r Most Hble servt.

THO^S H^N MARSHALL

FROM THOMAS H. MARSHALL, ESQ.

Wednesday Evening 11th April 1770

SIR/

Am greatly obliged to you, for the Trouble you have Given your self in Leting me no M^r West is to be Down this Evening, or in the Morning; tho cannot at ^{this} Time Promis my self the Least Prospect of Joining you, As M^{rs} Marshall (who has been much aleing for sum time Past) is this day so Ill, (that without a Great amendment) cannot by any means Leve her, Should that be the Case, Weather &c. Permitting you may Depend I will be over in the Morning Arly,

I am Sir

Y^r Most Hble serv^t

THO HA^N MARSHALL

NB. Should I not be
at your Hous by Eight
oClock, in the Morning
you may take for Granted
I cannot Leve home —

}

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

April the 16th 1770

DEAR SIR

Having been travelling five days and not getting home till 11 oClock last night, I find myself & Horses rather too much fatigued to go to Court as I intended —

M^r Montgomerie informed me at the last Court

that he sh^d be up at this in order to have his power of Attorney fully proved — and I wrote to Col^o Mason desiring to be informed of the date of his power of Attorney, the one to M^r Montgomerie being dated the 6th of October 1769—

I have directed Joe to enquire for a Letter from M^r Mason and deliver it to You, and I shall be obliged to You to open it, and if the date is not posterior to that of M^r Montgomerie's and you incline to receive from him as M^r Savage's Attorney the three years Annuity due, being £300, and pay it to him as M^r Savage's, I am also willing, and your Receipt will be as effectual as a joint one from us both. M^r Montgomerie receiving the money as her Attorney will be answerable to her for it, and this may be a speedy way of getting the money paid to her — for M^r Montgomerie told me he would settle it in that manner if agreeable to you.

I proposed to have spoke to you in person upon the Subject but being much fatigued I am in hopes this Letter will answer the same End.

I am

D^r Sir

Your most obed^t

I shall be obliged to you to

BRYAN FAIRFAX

excuse my not coming to

M^r Montgomerie to whom I

made a promise of being at Court, and ^{I have} hurried myself too much in order to perform it—

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

D^R SIR May y^e 5th 1770

Inclosed is a Rough Draft of your Land and Calculated with the alowence of ten per cent in the hundred.

I did not Enter that Land for you on they teen Mile Creek as it Epear to me from the new Map Don by M^r Scull¹ that the Monongahalia will be left out when they back Line is Run at that bent at the Mouth of they teen Mile Creek or at any Rate where the Land Lyes.

I ofard to pay the Office fees if they would Return me the Purches money if that Land did not fall in Pensilvania the would not agree to Return me the money at any Rate

But told me if I did not think it in Pensilvania not to enter it as such Presedents would be attended with Confusion and Trouble to them

Therefor I thought proper to Refair² it till I went up and Run a Line from Fort pitt till it Entersects the Line now Run which^{will} Determine the matter without dout and if it should be in Pensilvania then the Clark will send me a Warrant sending to him as we have agreed on it³ I shall have the other Peace

¹ George Croghan, writing to Thomas Wharton, November 11, 1772, says: "Scull's Map is a very fraudulent one & has been published with a view to D'ceive the publick here, w^h they have done effectually & rob'd y^e people of vast sums of Money & phaps they had in view likewise to get a line settled with y^e proprietors of y^e New Colonie by that Map."

² Defer.

³ Warrants of survey were issued by the secretary of the board of property at Philadelphia subject to the direction of the commissioners. This board of property, organized in 1765, consisted of the governor, the secretary, the surveyor-general, the receiver-general, and the auditor-general; the latter official being added to the board in 1769.

at the mouth of the River Run out as soon as I go out as they survayor will be there again I go out

There is no sertenty about the Quit Rents what they will be and it is suposed they will Open the Office on the former Terms as no Land from Over the mountain has bin Enter since they new manner of opening of it nor will any be fond of it which will oblide them to Open on the former Terms¹

The Endien Traders Land² is to be laid on the north side of the Little Khanaway from the mouth to the head and by they Lalarel³ hill till it falls in with the Pensilvania Line and then with it till it falls to the head or as far as it goes and so a straight Line West till it Entersects or stricks the Ohio which will Leve out great part of all the Land on the west side of the Monongahalia to the Ohio from the Proprieter⁴ Line as According to the Opinion of Such as Judge the matter the Western Bounds will [be] a Crooked Line agreed to the Meanders of Dolawar River

The Endien Traders have not got there Land Confirmd to them yeat from any Account they have had yeat Cap^t Trent is still in Ingland wating to have it Setled⁴

¹ The quitrents at that time in Pennsylvania were one penny sterling per acre.

² During hostilities with the western Indians in 1763-64, known as Pontiac's War, a number of traders met with serious losses at their hands. At the treaty of Fort Stanwix, in the autumn of 1768, grants of lands were made to several of these traders by the tribes there represented. These lands were located between the Kanawha and Monongahela rivers. Titles, however, to be valid, needed confirmation by the crown. — BUTTERFIELD.

³ Laurel.

⁴ William Trent, a native of Pennsylvania, was early engaged in the Indian trade. He also took an active part in the Seven Years' War; and during Pontiac's War suffered the loss of a trading-house near Fort Pitt. He was allowed a grant of land by the Indians, at the treaty of Fort Stanwix, in 1768, along with other Indian traders; these grants he was seeking to have confirmed. — BUTTERFIELD.

I shall do Every thing in my Power to inform my self in Regard to the Lands where the are to be Laid of till I see or hear from you I am your most Humble Sarvant

W. CRAWFORD

N B When you com up you will see the hole of your Tract finisht and have it all Patent in on[e] Tract I spook to M^r Thilman ¹ and told him you wanted to Command som part of the River and he Agreed the Survayor should Run it out and you pay all under one and have a patent for the hole in one

Col^o Carlyle has promised me to show you M^r Scull^o Map just Dun from the best intelligents som Actual Surveys Som from Report or best Accounts he cold get —

FROM THOMAS H. MARSHALL, ESQ.

MARYLAND the 7th of May 1770—

SIR/ You have hearwith the Counts & Distances of M^r Alexanders Land (Corrected). Viz

S39° W, 280 Pole, S 40 E, 199, East, 140, —
N N W, 128, N 60 E 57, N N W to the Beg^s ²

I am y^r Verry Hble serv.

THO^S HA^N MARSHALL

¹ James Tilghman, Secretary of the Land Office at Philadelphia.

² Beginning.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

CAROLINE, May the 9th 1770.

SIR

There are some particular Circumstances in my Affairs, at this Juncture, which make Me desirous to know your & M^r Washington's final Resolution respecting M^r Custis's Visit to Europe. Should You think it adviseable for Him to go, & I be thought a proper person to accompany Him, I still am willing to ~~accompany~~ do it, & on Terms which, I can hardly think, You will judge unreasonable. — I mean not to take upon Me to advise You in the Matter: Yet, I cannot help giving it You as my Opinion, that, from what I know of Him, Travelling will be of peculiar Service to Him. And as He is now advancing fast to that period of Life, much the most hazardous, this Expedient, if ever adopted at all, should be resolved on Early, & put in Execution, at least, in two Years from this Time. The Expectaⁿ of it will engage his Attention, & divert Him from what I think a very wrong System, tho a very common one, with the Youth of Virginia: it is to be hoped too, that it will stimulate Him to pursue his Studies with greater Earnestness, when He recollects how often He must be put to the Blush, if He appears illiterate amongst Men of Letters, into whose Company, in Travelling, He will often fall. Surely, it will not be thought that I can possibly have any interested Views in this Matter. It is true, indeed, I wish to revisit my native Country, & I have too a strong Inclinaⁿ to see the diff^t parts of the World. In point of Pru-

dence, however, I believe it were better, for Me to remain contented as I am: I consider it in this Light, that I am unconnected in the World, with no very violent Passion, but that of increasing my slender Stock of Knowledge, which I persuade myself I shall most effectually accomplish by a Tour thro' those Countries where Arts and Sciences have been most successfully cultivated. These, believe Me, are all the interested Motives I feel the Influence of: & if I have either heretofore or now, recommended it to M^r Custis to travel, it was from a full Conviction how necessary & how useful it w^d be to Him. I have many Reasons for this Opinion, Some of which, I believe, are not unknown to You.

Happening, at present, to be a good deal hurried, I have only Time to add, that I wou'd by no means have mentioned this Matter to You now, had not my own Affairs required it: & that I can never consent to his leaving Virg^a unless He is first innoculated, which therefore should be resolved on as soon as ever You can be advised of a good Opportunity.

I beg my respectful Comp^s to M^r Washington & Miss Custis, & am, very truly,

Y^r most obed^t Hble Serv^t

JONA^N BOUCHER.

P. S.

I have shewn Jack what I have wrote, & desir'd Him to think of the Project calmly & coolly, & then sit down, & write You fully his own Sentiments on the Subject. —

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

SIR

So hurried as You know Me to be at present, I flatter myself You will not even now expect more of Me than the Outlines of a Plan of Travelling: the filling it up may be the Work of further Leisure, & mature Consideration. And, as I have Nothing to lay before You, but mere Conjectures & Opinions, unsupported by any experience of my Own, let Me again have Leave to remind You not to pay any greater Deference to These, or to any Opinions, than They are found fairly to deserve. It is a Project of suff: Importance to warrant y^r collect^s y^e Opinions of All who may be suppos'd to have ever attended to, or tho: of the Matter.

Travelling, You are well aware, is still and long has been much in Vogue in our Mother Country; yet has it so frequently been attempted & executed in so absurd & preposterous a Manner, that it is now become a Question, whether, ~~rationally considered~~, it be really useful or not. And as warm an Advocate as I profess myself for this Method of complet^s an Educatⁿ, I yet readily own that it is only some Persons to whom Travelling can possibly be useful & that there are perhaps equally many to whom it co^d certainly be pernicious. The light, giddy, fantastical frothy & frivolous Characters amongst Us, w^d only be made worse, & rendered incurable: but, let Sedentary Men talk as much as They please of y^e Loss of Time, y^e Expence, & y^e unsettled & roving Habits acquired by Travel, to Me it is beyond a Dispute, that to an

observant Mind, & to a Person Endued wth Judgm^t to draw profitable Knowledge f^m y^e various Objects w^c various Countries are perpetually present^s, there is not ano^r so eligible a System to be taken to form & polish y^e manners of a liberal Youth, & to fit Him for y^e Business & Conversaⁿ of y^e World. And if You will be pleased to apply this Remark to some living Instances to be met with Even here, I am mistaken if it will not account for that Objecⁿ so often started by the Opposers of this Plan — that such, & such an one have travelled without being any better for it. Depend upon it, They were either originally unfit for the Experiment, or it has been conducted on wrong Principles. Let This be s^d with^t any Suspicion of my aim^s to reflect on any Individuals: the Reflexion is not confin'd to Virginia. But there is a certⁿ Captiousness in some of y^e Countrymen w^c I ^{cannot but} ~~sincerely~~ lament, tho I very freely pardon as ^{being but} y^e ebullitions of Zeal for th^r Country, w^c will hardly allow a Foreigner (& such I must be called in Spite of my ~~sincere~~ Attachm^t to Virg^a & Virginians) to ~~censure~~ find Fault wth any Thing belonging either to Them or to their Country. But, as I am well convinced This is not y^e Case wth you, I return to my subject.

It being then agreed, at least by You & Me, that, generally speaking, Travelling is useful & necessary, to young Persons in all Countries, let Us, as more immediately interesting Us, now more particularly enquire, if it be not particularly so to a Virginian & to M^r Custis. The peculiar Advantages ^{we result to Youth from} Travel, are s^d to be first, an Easy Address, y^e wearing off

national Prejudices, & y^e find^s noth^s ridiculous in national Peculiarities; & above all, that supreme Accomplish^m: w^c we call a *Knowledge of y^e World*. A Service so useful as to supersede or disgrace all y^e Rest: for I understand not y^e Phrase in y^e sense in w^c Fops or Rakes use it, but ^{mean by it} that easy that elegant that useful Knowledge w^c results f^m an enlarged observ^a of Men & Things, f^m an Acquaintance with y^e Customs & Usages of various and distant Countries, f^m some Insight into their Politics, Govern^mts, Religion and Manners, in a Word, f^m y^e Study & Contemplaⁿ of Men, as They present Themselves on y^e gr^t stage of y^e World, in various Forms, & under Diff^t Appearances. This is that Master Science, w^c every G-man sh^d know, & w^c yet no school nor College can teach Him. To apply this to y^e Country We live in where will You point out to Me another so circumscrib'd in its Intercourse wth Mankind at large, as Virg^a? Saving here & there a needy Emigrant from G^t Britain, an illiterate Captⁿ of a Ship, or a ~~Merch^t~~ subaltern Merch^t ~~to a Merch^t~~, to whom can a Virg^a Youth apply, for a Speciman of y^e Manners &c of any other People? Thus limited in y^e Opp^y for Observ^a, must not his Ideas necessarily resemble Those of a Carribee Indian, mentioned by Lafitan, who, offended at being called a Savage, exclaimed, *I know no Savages but the Europeans, who adopt none of our Customs*; or Those of y^e Inhabitants of the Marean Islands, who, being persuaded that Theirs was y^e only Language in y^e Universe, concluded from thence that all other Men knew not how to speak? He finds his Lot cast in a Country amazingly fertile,

& thence learns to conclude that even y^e rich Plains watered by y^e Nile, the Grecian Temple, the Roman Campania, the Spanish Andulusia, are all mean & contemptible wth compar'd wth *his low Grounds*; & pursuing this train of Reasoning, soon supposes^{also} like the Baron of Thonder ton Tronck; that both his Country & Countrymen, are the finest of all possible Countries, & People. Now, if it were only for y^e Sake of Truth & Decency, if it were only to avoid y^e Ridicule to w^{ch} these palpable Absurdities expose Them, one cannot but wish our Youth c^d be taught to open th^r Eyes, & extend Them beyond th^r own foggy Air & dirty Acres. But, This is not all: there is not a Country in y^e World, where a Man of Capacity c^d be more eminently useful by promot^g & encouraging y^e Arts, than in Virg^a. Till very lately You c^d hardly any where see a piece of Land tolerably plough'd, or a person who c^d be persuaded that plowing made any difference: & even yet it is more than probable, even Those who have made y^e greatest Improvm^t in this most natural, most useful, & most amusing Art, fall infinitely short of some other Countries. In a political View then, Travelling appears to be exceedingly necessary: since a Man may thus learn to double y^e value of his Estate.

I mentioned too y^e Improvem^t of Manners; by w^{ch} I mean an Ability for ingenious, manly, & useful Conversⁿ. For a Traveller who makes a proper Use of his Opportunities, will be all of a piece, & return as polished in his Mind & Understanding, as in his Person. To this it is frequently objected y^t w^{ch} is gain'd in Civility & Politeness, is lost in real

Goodness & Virtue, by y^e various tempt^s Scenes of Vice to w^c a Youth must be exposed in y^e course of his Travels. In Ans^r to This, let Me observe that there are some Tempers who c^d not possibly be preserved fr^m y^e Taint of Vice, even wth y^e Benefit of a private Educaⁿ. Or, grant it were practicable to retain y^e Purity of their Morals by such narrow Regulaⁿ, do not You think that if, by this Means, They sh^d chance to have fewer Vices, They w^d also have fewer Excellencies? And it sh^d be remembered that solitary Virtue, however pure & immaculate, is but imperfect Virtue: We are formed for Society, & y^e Business of y^e World is a Duty we owe to Society: & it is therefore our Duty to qualify ourselves for y^e performance of these Duties in y^e best Man^r w^c is by prudent & well conducted Travel.

Let Us now, if You please, as a Contrast to This, for a Moment figure to Ourselves y^e future History of our Pupil, sh^d this Expedient not be approv'd of. The chief failings of his Character are that He is constitutionally somewhat too warm, indolent, & voluptuous. As yet these propensities are but in Embrio: Ere long, however, They will discover Themselves, & if not duly regulated, it is Easy to see to what They will lead. At best, He will soon lose all Relish for mental Excellence — He will unwillingly apply to any Improvem^t either in Arts or Sciences — Sunk in unmanly Sloth, his Estate will [be] left to y^e Managem^t of some worthless Overseer; & Himself soon be entangled in some matrimonial Adventure, in w^c as Passion will have much to say, it is not very likely Reason will be much listened to. I appeal to You,

Sir, if this Acc^t be exaggerated, & if it be not sadly verified by many living Instances y^t have fallen under y^r own Observaⁿ.

The Contrast is so striking, to Me, at least, it seems so, that I cannot think it possible for any one to hesitate a Moment in determin^t. Let Me then hasten just to repeat w^t I yesterday mentioned to You of y^r Manner in w^t I cou'd wish my Scheme to be executed. — In the first Place then, I wou'd have Him make the Tour of N: America, at least, y^e Northern Colonies, w^t might very well be done in six months. And This chiefly to avoid y^e Absurdity of going so far to get acquainted wth other Countries, ere He knew any Thing of his own. After This, He sh^d go to Engl^d, & there immediately to be enter'd in One of y^e Universities, not so much f^r any Prospect of Advantages to be gain'd by Study in y^e little Time He w^d stay there, as that it wou'd be by much the safest Place for Him. After a Winter or so spent there, He shou'd be conducted thro' y^e principal Countries & Towns of the three Kingdoms, which wou'd possibly take up nearly a Year; After This He might conveniently spend six Months in the Metropolis, & from thence set out on his Tour thro' some of y^e principal Countries on y^e Continent, w^t He sh^d travel thro' not as a Virtuoso to collect Rarities, or as a Connoisseur, to gaze at excellent Pictures or magnificent Buildings, but rather like a Really sensible & *Sentimental Traveller*, such as Horace intimates Ulysses was, who travell'd thro' many Cities to see y^e Manners of many Men. — These are the Outlines of my Plan; which however I no otherwise recom-

mend to You, than as my first Thoughts, w^c I shall
 be proud to see improv'd by Y^r self or others. The
 Expence of the Undertaking yet remains to be spoken
 of, in estimating of which, I am even more at a Loss
 than in what I have heretofore mentioned. How-
 ever, as I had much rather have my Judgem^t called
 in Questⁿ than my Inclinaⁿ to comply wth every Re-
 quest of Yours, I hesitate not to give You my Opin-
 ion, such as it is. I cannot then believe that it can
 possibly be ^{excuted} ~~undertaken~~ in any such Manner as You
 w^d wish, or as it ought, for less than ^{sterg} £1000 ~~per~~ ann:
 if so little: which I calculate in this Manner. It
 cannot be tho^t unreasonable that my Appointm^t if
 finally I sh^d be pitch'd upon to accompany Him, sh^d
 at least be equal to w^t I relinquish here; as I take
 not into Acc^t y^e Injury I may thus eventually do
 to my Prospects in Life, since This, I think, ought
 to be charg'd to y^e Pleasure I propose to Myself f^r
 y^e Scheme. This then I set down at £250: My
 Expences & those of a serv^t & a p^r of Horses, at as
 much more: His own, & serv^t &c. at £250 — the
 remaining £250 I allot to Cloath^s Him & sundry
 other unforeseen Expences, such as Purchas^s Curi-
 osities, visit^s public Places, &c &c. For Aught I
 know, This may be too much — tho' I hardly think
 it is: shou'd it be so, as I know his Circumstances, it
 sh^d be my Study to proportion his Expences, as far
 as They possibly could, to his Income. And, who-
 ever be his Preceptor, sh^d have it strictly in Charge
 Punctually to render You a faithful Acc^t of every
 Disbursem^t, that so You might have it in y^r Power

to subject Him to whatever new Regulaⁿ. You might judge expedient.

I am much ashamed to lay before You so confused & ill digested a Letter, w^c I beg You to impute to my Hurry, & ^{my} being constantly interrupted by Company: If, however, You can only collect from it y^e Substance of my Plan, & if that only appears tolerably plausible to You, I am not very anxious for y^e Rest, relying so entirely as I do, on y^e Candor to excuse any Inaccuracies You may meet wth in w^t I have wrote. This only I have to request of You, that wⁿ You consult any of y^e Friends on this Matter, You will be so good as not to produce this Letter, which tho' I am not afraid to trust to You, I am yet unwilling sh^d be perused by Strangers.

As to M^r Custis's living wth Me in Annapolis, shou'd I resolve to remove thither, as I suppose I shall, I have not anything to add to what I yesterday told You. I purpose calling on M^r Washington in my Way to Maryland, & shall then request Her immediately to write to You her Sentiments, so that I shall hope to be obliged wth your final Resolution before I leave Annap^s, which will hardly be before the Middle of next Month.

I am, with much Esteem, very truly
Sir, Y^r most Obed^t & most Hble Serv^t
JONA^N BOUCHER

S^r MARY'S
May the 21st 1770.

FROM WILLIAM PEARETH, ESQ.

LONDON the 25 May 1770

SIR/

In my last I troubled Col^l Hunter to get forwarded to you Mess^{rs} Colvill & West as Ex^{rs} to the late M^r Colvill a letter from Newcastle, covering the Pedigree of Dulcibella Stott & Certificate of her then residing there, which has been formed in consequence of an Advertisement put into the News Papers by the direction of the Will of the said M^r Colvill.¹

I then represented to you the distressed Circumstances this poor Woman was laboring under & how salutary a speedy relief would be to her, but above all begged to have some answer to satisfy her about her great Expectations, which I fear by Col^l Hunter's Account given me will never profit her much.

I can hardly suppose my letter has miscarried as it was forwarded by one of this Gentleman's friends : I have seen him since I came to Town & he has assured me that if I could write to you, you would have the goodness to enquire if my letter was ever received, & to send me an answer thereto.

¹ The following extract from Thomas Colville's will is bound with the Washington manuscripts : " Paragraph of the Will of Tho^l Colvill dec^d And whereas my Mother Catherine Colvill had several near relations in Durham of the Names of Stott, Wills, Richardson and a Woman called Catherine Smith — it is my will & desire that the overplus or residue of my estate when sold as aforesaid (if any surplus there be) be divided into four equal parts and that each of the before mention'd Stott, Wills, Richardson & Smith have one fourth part of the overplus of my Estate my meaning is that those of these Names the nearest related to my said Mother or their direct descendants have each their fourth parts of the said residue after having made sufficient proof of their respective relationship to my said Mother — And that they enter their several claims & make proper proofs as aforesaid to my executors within five years after my decease as in and by the said Will reference being thereto had will more fully appear " —

If there is a possibility of getting anything for this poor old woman, I hope you will be so charitable as to use your Interest in her Behalf ; I however flatter myself that you will very soon favor me with an answer to this, directed to Newcastle upon Tine, setting forth the State of the Case, that I may satisfy her how Things are, which Col^d Hunter say'd I might depend upon your doing, if I made use of his name, the same as if he had given me a Line to you himself, to desire you would take this Trouble.

I do assure you I have no other Interest in the affair than a desire of getting this poor woman who now lives upon Charity a certain Information whether she is or is not to expect any advantage from the Will of the late M^r Colvill, for without some advice from one of you Gentlemen concerned there will be [no] satisfying her or making her easy about it.

You will excuse the Liberty I take in troubling [you] with this letter, if you will favor me with a speedy answer to it, you will very much oblige

Sir/

Your ob^t hble Serv^t

W^m PEARETH.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

SIR

Jack comes a Day or two sooner than I intended, in Consequence of an Invitation from M^r Galloway, & M^r Magowan, to go to West River, which He does this Day. — He brings you some Samples, which

I hardly expect will please. M^r Anth^o Stewart¹ has a Cargo just arrived, not yet opened, in which, He says, are Assortm^{ts} of Coating: Shou'd You rather incline to wait for a Choice out of These, if You will be so good as to give Me Y^r Directions, I will endeavour to attend to Them. — Their common Rate of selling, for ready Money is at 100 ⁹/₁₀ Cent, which I think is cheaper than with You. — A Vessel will clear out from hence for London, in a^b a Week or ten Days. I will be careful of any Letters You may want to put on Board.

They are still going on wth th^r Subscripⁿ for clear^s y^e Potomac, &, as I am told, wth Spirit. Four hundred pounds are subscribed in this City; nor have They yet got all They expect. Mess^{rs} Jacques & Johnson set off for Frederick to-morrow, & talk of fixing a Day for a general Meeting, before They return. Will it be convenient & agreeable to You to attend — about a Month hence, if You have Notice in Time — at the Spot, i: e: at, or near Semple's?

D^r Ross yesterday shew'd Me a Letter He had just rec^d from Croghan at Pittsburg, which informs Him that a new Government is certainly determin'd upon in that Western World² & that either Coll: Mercer³ or one M^r Wharton⁴ are to be appointed Governor. He speaks of its Boundaries &c wth Certainty, as a Matter of Fact. Have You heard of it — & the Particulars? It will be an immense Acquisition, if not immediately to the Wealth, certainly to

¹ Anthony Stewart of Annapolis, proprietor of the brig Peggy Stewart, burned by the owner at Annapolis in October, 1774, for carrying tea.

² Walpole's grant.

³ George Mercer.

⁴ Samuel Wharton.

the Strength of these Governments — & a fine Field
for a project^s Spirit to advertise in.

I am, Sir, y^r most Obed^t Hble Serv^t

JONA^N BOUCHER

ANNAPOLIS

Aug: 18th 1770.

FROM JOHN PARKE CUSTIS.¹

[A Copy.]

August 30 1770

MY DEAR SIR

I have sent you according to your directions patterns of all M^r Stewarts beaver Coating with the lowest ready money prices fixed to each of them, which I have directed the boy to leave with M^r Ramsay. When I crossed the River I saw M^r Mason who told me that M^r Christian had been at his house, and told him that he was to teach 4 days at our house the next time;² therefore I should be glad, if convenient, to know before the time, whether I must come over, & likewise whether I shall have the lace taken off my green coat, I think it had better be turned by which means it will serve me very well this winter. I have nothing new to tell you of. M^r Boucher has sent your letter by George Buchanan. My love to

¹ Born in 1755, died November 5, 1781.

² There are several entries in Washington's journal for 1770 showing that the young people from time to time assembled at the different houses in the neighborhood to attend a dancing class, conducted by Mr. Christian.

"May 9. M^r Christian danced here, who, besides his Scholars, and those already mentioned to be here. M^{rs} Peake & Neice M^r Massey — M^r Piper & M^r Adams dined here."

"10. M^r Christian and some of his Scholars went away this afternoon."

"18. Patsy Custis & Milly Posey went to Col^l Mason's to the Dancing School."

"Sep^r. 12. M^r Christian & his Scholars came here to Dancing."

Mama & sister, and my compliments to all who enquire after me.

With the greatest respect

Y^r obed^t Son

JOHN PARKE CUSTIS

FROM THOMAS H. MARSHALL, ESQ.

MARYLAND the 17th Sep^r 1770

SIR/

The Tenant's on M^r Alexanders Land (on this side) Are Desirous of knowing what Part of the Lands will be Left, after Laying of the Quantity we are makeing an Exchange for; As you have all the Lands collected in one Plat (If I mistake not) that is in Dogue Neck; If you will be kind enuf to Let me know the Quantity of Land I hould (in slipes) on the South side of the Mane Road that Leeds from the head of Dogue Creek (That is, from the [mutilated] Landing Place) to the Gum Spring which I immagin you can Nearly do by your Plat, I can then satisfy the Tenants heare, by Strikeing and Sighting the Line, agreable to the Forme, have sighted in a Ruff Draft of M^r Alexanders Land, sent you,

I am y^r Verry Hble serv^t

THO^s HAⁿ MARSHALL.

FROM WILLIAM GRAYSON, ESQ.¹

[A Copy.]

SNIGGERS Sept. 23. 1770.

SIR,

We [?] have met here to day, and we [?] have your evidences agreeable to appointment, but only 2 commissioners have appeared which is not sufficient. M^r Scott is sent for, and on his arrival, we shall proceed to business, when you may depend I shall do everything necessary on your behalf.

M^r Thos Hite has this day acknowledged he has Thomas' bond for the money the land was sold for and offered to relinquish his claim to the land provided I would undertake to pay the amount of the bond which is about £12 & interest. This I did not incline to do, as I have no instructions from you relative to such a proposal; and my own opinion was against it; as I conceived Thomas & his heirs were liable for it, and that the land was not subject to it in the hands of an assignee.

I am, Sir, yr Most Obed^tW^m GRAYSON.

FROM THOMAS H. MARSHALL, ESQ.

MARYLAND the 23^d of Sepr 1770

SIR/ I'm sorry it is not in my Power to appoint any Day (at this time) that I could wate on you in order to Ascertain the Quantity of Land of Wo^od² on the

¹ Born in Prince William County, Virginia, about 1740; died in Dumfries, Virginia, March 12, 1790.

² Wood?

South side of the Road, that Leads from your Stile to the Gum Spring, owing to the Declining state of health M^r Marshall still Lab^r Under, she being in such a Loe state, that I cannot Leve her Scarcely a Moment —

Should be Verry Glad, could I be on sum Sertenty in Regard to the Quantity of Land, as I wantd the part (much) to have inclosed (off M^r Alexanders p^t Adjoining me heare) Arly this fall, On which Acc^t should M^r Marshall's situation alter, so that I can Leve her, before the time you Propose Leveing home, I will Acquaint you therewith, and wate on you in Order to have the affair setled as far as we now can do —

I am y^r verry Hble serv^t

THO^s HAⁿ MARSHALL

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

DEAR SIR

I much wish'd to have accompany'd Jack, but cannot: &, what is worse, We part on an Uncertainty, which may be disagreeable. I have some Thoughts of setting off for S^t Mary's this Week; & if I do get away, I can hardly expect to return again till I remove finally, which cannot well be sooner than the latter End of next Month. So that, if I do not come by Mount Vernon, Jack needs not come hither, till You or He hear from Me again.

A quondam Schoolfellow of Jack's wrote to Me last Week to apply to D^r Stephenson of Baltimore to

take Him to be inoculated. I have done so; & at y^e same Time mentioned Custis to Him. He seem'd particularly desirous of having an Opportunity of testifying his Esteem for You by shewing Civilities to any person connected with You. And, cou'd You by any means resolve on this Measure, I cannot but think the present a favorable Time, as there are now, or soon will be, many of his Acquaintances there on the same Errand.

Probably, ere long, You will find out that He has lost his Watch; & He deserves to be severely reprimanded for his Carelessness. I have the Watch, but do not care soon to put Him out of Pain.

I heartily wish You an agreeable Tour thro' yonder Tramontane Regions, & am, very truly,

Y^r: much obliged Fr^d & Serv^t:

JONA^N BOUCHER

ANNAPOLIS

1st Oct: 1770.

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

TOWLSTON Dec^r: the 6th 1770.

DEAR SIR

I am very glad to hear of your safe Return ¹ which I had begun to doubt of —

Poor Rockwood died on his way Home —

I have inclosed a Letter which I received this Fall from M^r: Montgomerie. Please to let me know your Determination, and if you should be inclinable (which I doubt of) to receive a payment from him, and make

¹ Washington set out on his journey to the Ohio on October 5, and reached home December 1, 1770.

one to him as M^r Savage's Attorney, and will inform me of the place it would ^{be} agreeable to you to meet him I will endeavor to be ^{there} _^ if possible and the Weather tolerable.

I am D^r Sir

Y^r most obed^t

BRYAN FAIRFAX

I think M^r Montgomerie will be answerable to M^r Savage —

I had almost forgot to inform you that M^r Harrison could not undertake the Suit vs M^r Mason as he had been retained by him and no Suit has been yet brought as I expected to have seen you soon after I received M^r Harrison's Letter: so that in Case you don't agree to M^r Montgomerie's proposal, I hope you'll direct the Suit to be brought by any one you think proper; For tho' we can't refuse an ^{actual} _^ payment from M^r Montgomerie, we may one upon condition of repaying it to him ¹ —

¹ D^r SIR,

Having received your favour of the 6th I profess myself at a loss to know what answer to give to it, and to consult a Lawyer every time we are puzzled by the duplicity of M^r Savage's Conduct woud sink a large portion of her Annuity, or entail a heavy expence upon ourselves. —

I think as you do, that it woud seem odd to refuse the ^{actual} _^ tender of M^r Savage's Annuity from the Doct^r Agent ^{at a time} _^ when we are threatening his Security with a Suit on this Acc^t; — And I am of opinion, that if we ^{do} ~~were to~~ receive the money from him, we ^{can} ~~could~~ not legally withhold payment thereof from her Attorney (who is one and the same person) without submitting our Reasons for so doing to the Publick attention, and her Letters she has expressly required may not be seen — Without exposing these as the grounds of our refusal we can have no pretext to detain the money in our hands — to keep it there woud contribute nothing to the relief of M^r Savages's necessities but very probably expose ourselves to Censure — and to pay the money to any Person

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

DR SIR/

Agreeable to your Desire I have Bought the Great Meadows from M^r Harrison¹ for thirty Pistols to be paid to M^r Jacob Hite and inclosed is an order^{on} you from M^r Harrison in favour of M^r Hite, and the bill of Se'al fill^d up by M^r McClaine² and a Draft to be Run as you think Proper any alterations you want done Please to Let me now and I will see it done when M^r McClaine Com^a up next Summer.

I intend to Fort pitt in a day or two the Snow^{that} fell the time you Left my house Continued on the ground with the help of som more Ever Since so that there was no Looking at the Land with they Cation³ you Desired

not legally authoriz'd to receive it woud I believe be equally Imprudent — In short, view the matter in whatever light one will, there is nothing but doubt & difficulties before us; and I see no effectual method of serving M^{rs} Savage without falling into some snare which we may not easily extricate ourselves from for I must confess that I have no good opinion of M^{rs} Savages honour on the one hand — On the [other] our attempts to serve her will give us little to expect from the Doctors Friendship if we should [several illegible words] on the whole, can we, do you think, avoid coming to a Settlement with M^r Montgomerie without Incurring the Imputation of disengenuity on the one hand — or, being too ~~particular in~~ plain in our Reason's for it on the other; If this can be done I should be for letting the matter sleep ~~while~~ ^{you think it cannot or ought} till we cou'd write a joint Letter to M^{rs} Savage informing her of the predicament in which her Affairs respecting the Bond stand & to beg that she will be steady & fixd to some point or no longer expect us to become the dupes of her fickleness and folly. — If you think this method can be adopted no time should be lost in putting it in execution, if ^{you think it cannot or ought} not I am willing to pursue any other you shall advise as I own that I am more per [manuscript torn], more I think of the matter. —

I am D^r Sir

Y^r Most Obed^t

G^d W—N

Dec^r 12th 1770

(Washington's reply.)

¹ Lawrence Harrison.

² McLain.

³ Caution?

I shall send you a full Account by My Brothers [w]ho is to be up by Christmass if I can have the ground Clear of Snow Long a nough to have it done, at any Rate I will see it next Weeke, Col: Croughan is at Fort pitt still and I understand is to stay Chief part of the Winter

Sir I wish you a Mery Christmass
and I am Sir your very
Hum^b Sarvant ———

W CRAWFORD
Decem^r 6th 1770

NB M^r Hite has an order of the
sam[e] on[e] is to be paid only
WC

=====

FROM MR. WILLIAM CARR.¹

DUMFRIES 17th Dec^r 1770

SIR

Your favour of the 12th Curr^t came to hand yesterday which confirmed what M^r Lawson told me regarding your wheat as you Manufacture yours it will not be in my power to procure a shipLoad in this part of the country being only desird to ship from one to 200 Barrels of Flower & that on condition its of Equal Quality with the Baltimore & Philadelphia. I am empowerd by M^r Russell to Settle & adjust some of his affairs here amongst which are his claim to M^r Johnstonns Estate the tract of Land adjoining you will I am informd clearly appear to be M^r Russells Property of this I am not certain as I have not

¹ William Carr was in March, 1761, appointed one of the trustees of the town of Dumfries.

yet got the title Papers M^r West¹ wrote me lately I need not bring suit against him if M^r Russells title shoud be thought good he woud not dispute the Point with me I have been so busy this Fall that I really coud not spare time to search Fairfax County office where all the papers relative to the Land may be found I shall look into this Matter immediately then let you know how it stands you may be sure Sir your inquiries shall remain with me & M^r Russells claim to the Land when the papers are proved shall be forwarded to you so that if you are inclinable to Purchase from M^r West or M^r Russell you may be on a certainty Should I have any orders to Buy Flower you shall know I am Sir

Your most Ob^t hble Servant

WILLIAM CARR

FROM COLONEL GEORGE MERCER.

DEAR COLONEL

I wrote you from hence about two Months since, at the Request of M^{rs} Savage, praying you to do, what her own Letter now she says repeats, and enforces. I believe ^{the} poor Woman has but a bad Time, as she is amongst other Things, at the tender Age of three score & ten, denied the Use of Pen Ink Paper & Romances, and a frequent Use of the Strap is substituted in the Place of these Amusements — this she tells me herself, and an old Lady who visits me with her assures me — it is — but — too — true.

¹ John West, of Fairfax County.

This Country affords no News — various are the Opinions concerning War — all the Officers who had Leave of Absence are ordered to join their Regiments — every Pacquet boat imports Us at least half a dozen — and if We may judge by the Appearances at the Castle, all the Country seems to have got into his Majesty's Livery — as $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Levee is always composed of red Coats.

I wrote you several Letters on the Subject of the Lands We were promised by Gov^r Dinwiddie's Proclamation — in my last, before I left England, I mentioned my having agreed with, or I may rather say prevailed with, the great Land Company there¹ — that the 200,000 Acres claimed by the officers of the Virginia Troops, should be allowed, out of *their small* Grant; but I wish however the Affair might be settled in Virginia, and I hope it is over by this, as the 25th of Oct^r is past.

I hope to kiss your Hand in our native Country the Beginning of the Summer, as I shall go to England in a few Days, & put myself on Board the first Spring Ship bound to the Land of Promise. My Compliments wait on M^r Washington. I am

Dear Colonel

Your obliged Friend & hble Serv^t

G^{EO} MERCER.

DUBLIN Dec^r the 18th

1770 —

¹ Colonel Mercer was the agent for the Ohio Company in England, which had been merged into Walpole's Company.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

SIR

I thank You much for your Intimations respecting Master Custis. Were all Those who have the Care & Direction of Children as attentive to their real Interests, We shou'd not have so many Complaints of Children spoil'd by Parental Indulgence.

It is not without much Concern I own to You, that your Sentim^{ts} of this young Gentleman have, for some Time, been my own. I have observ'd his growing Passions taking this unpleasing Cast, without the Power of preventing it. To a Youth, brought up in the calm, easy, & rational Manner that He has, the ordinary Means of violent Restraint or Controll, wou'd, I believe, rather defeat, than promote a Reformation. The System, we set out with, that of tender persuasion, must still be pursued: and tho' it may not, perhaps, work a speedy Cure, it certainly will in the End. I consider his rising Passions as some little Streamlet, swelling by successive Showers, into Something like a Torrent: You will in vain oppose its Course by Dams, Banks, or Mounds: & the only certain Means to prevent its becoming Mischievous, is to lead it gently along by a Variety of Canals, lessening its Force, by dividing it. — There ^{but} are two Cases in which I can foresee much real Danger to this young Gentleman; & if He can be preserved from These, I shall not be greatly apprehensive as to others. I mean, his Love of Ease, & Love of Pleasure — Pleasure of a Kind exceedingly

uncommon at his Years. I must confess to You I never did in my Life know a Youth so exceedingly indolent, or so surprisingly voluptuous: one w^d suppose Nature had intended Him for some Asiatic Prince: Against these two insinuating & most dangerous Foes to all that is truly valuable in a Character I have exerted all my Opposition: and I trust not altogether without Success. For, in a Contest of this Sort, not to suffer a total Defeat is in some Measure to gain a Victory. There is a Period in Life when these Passions will wage a War with Reason: and, if You can but keep Them [at] a Stand perhaps a reasonable Man will be contented. It could not be but that at one Time or other M^r Custis must have been introduc'd into Life, as 'tis call'd; and is it not almost too much to expect from one brought up in so very guarded a Manner as He has, that He shou'd pass the fiery Trial unhurt? He knows even now extremely little of the various Enjoyments of social Life; & yet He is peculiarly susceptible of Them. Is it not better then, think You, that He shou'd be suffered occasionally to mix in Company, unreserved, while He can have the advantage of a Monitor at Home, even tho' He shou'd, as indeed is too often the Case, go farther than One wou'd wish? It is, possibly, a Misfortune to Him, that every where much Notice is taken of Him. Whether This may be owing to his Family, his Fortune, his Manners, or his Connexions, or all together, I will not now enquire: But This is certain, that tho' I am often pleas'd with it, yet it is the Source of infinite Disquietude to Me. It is here, as with You: He has many Invitations to

Visits, Balls, & other Scenes of Pleasure, to which neither You nor I can refuse his going — more especially, if We go ourselves. Indeed, I do not know that it wou'd be right to refuse, even if good Manners wou'd allow it. Yet so it is, He seldom or never goes abroad without learning Something I cou'd have wish'd Him not to have learn'd. There are not, that I know of, more idle or pleasurable People in Annap^s, than there are in any other Town containing an Equal Number of Inhabitants: yet somehow or other He has contriv'd to learn a great deal of Idleness and Dissipation amongst Them. One inspires Him with a Passion for Dress — Another for Racing, Foxhunting &c — Even the grave Coll: Sharpe, You see, led Him to talk of Guns & Rifles, with much more Satisfaction than I can persuade Him to talk of Books, or literary Subjects. In Truth, it is one of the worst Symptoms that I know of in Him, that He does not much like Books: & yet I have been endeavouring to allure Him to it, by every Artifice I cou'd think of. I hoped that Cargo of Books wou'd have done it.¹ — Let Me, however, do Him the Justice to own, that He has labour'd under some Disadvantages in this Place: My late unsettled manner of Living has been unfavourable to Him. He dislik'd the House We lodg'd at, & wth some Reason. I cou'd not always be with Him, nor He always at his Book; & at such Times, there was no Body in the House, with whom He could, spend a leisure Hour but

¹ It will be remembered that poor Dr. Boucher, in expressing his appreciation of the prospect of having John Parke Custis as a pupil, confessed that it was a source of mortification to him that, after teaching seven years consecutively, he had not had "the Hon^r. to bring up one Scholar."

tolerably agreeably. Unluckily too, there lodged a Youth with us, of a Character exactly calculated to spoil such a Lad as Custis. He is sensible, wild, volatile, idle & good natured. You will know that I allude to a Son of M^r Sam: Galloway's. I by no means aim to reproach the young Gentleman, whom really I like exceedingly myself, yet can I not help giving it as my Opinion that He has done your Ward more Harm than He or his Family can Easily make Amends for. You cannot conceive wth w^t Delight Custis w^d listen to his droll Tales, & Acc^t of his Pranks at School in England. — There is another Particular too which perhaps Discretion wou'd bid Me suppress, but which I think I cannot honestly conceal from You. Sam: Galloway has also a Daughter, young & pretty. Out of Respect to You, as I suppos'd, He frequently invited Custis to his House: it was disagreeable to Me to be oblig'd to refuse Him, because it gave offence; but I believe He never was with them but twice — once when I was, & once when I was not. It was about the Time of the Players being here. Miss Galloway came to Town. Jack has a Propensity to the Sex, which I am at a Loss how to judge of, much more how to describe. I observ'd somewhat of a particular attention, exceeding bare Civility to this young Lady. I took such Steps as I judg'd most likely to wean Him in Time — and it was done, I believe, effectually. I am asham'd to add, because it is but a mere Conjecture of my own, & imparted to You in great Confidence, that I cou'd not help thinking This gave some Disquiet to the Family. I wou'd not willingly suspect People without Cause:

but, however absurd & foolish such a Project must have been, were I to give You a Detail of all my Reasons, I am inclined to believe You wou'd think as I do. I am mistaken, if You or M^r Washington have not also had an Opportunity given You of penetrating thro' such a Design; there are here, besides Me, who think Them capable of it; tho' I do not know that there are Any, besides Myself, who have suspected Them in this Instance. But, be my Suspicions well or ill-founded, I have very peremptorily refused an importunate Application, repeatedly made to Me since my last Return, to admit this s^d Son of His into my Family.—Let Me have Leave to request, that these Surmises of mine, which perhaps I have view'd in too serious a Light, may never transpire. I can hardly need to say to You, that were it known, I shou'd have the whole Family on my Back.

This is no pleasing Picture of his Conduct here: nor will it, I fear, make You much in Love with his Situation. I have so often said how unwillingly I shou'd part with the Boy, that I am afraid of being suspected of Selfishness, if after This, I still advise You to continue Him. Yet I do advise You, &, if I know my own Heart aright, with the most cordial & disinterested Sincerity. As I have already observ'd, He is now arriving fast to that Time of Life, when He must mix with Mankind: This He can no where do without Danger; & I think He will be in less Here, than almost any where Else, And for a Reason, which did I not well know your Candor, I wou'd hardly venture to assign. Because, I believe, there is not (nor is it likely that now there ever will

be) another Person who has such Influence over Him as I have. I hope I am not deceiv'd in the persuasion, that He has a very affectionate Regard for Me: & I am sure I can have no Motive's that shou'd lead Me to wish to deceive You, in assuring You, that not the least of his Actions escapes my Notice—I watch his every Motion, & tho' He is perpetually doing something or other displeasing to Me, yet upon the whole, I still hope & believe, He will turn out, if not a very clever, what is much better, a good Man. That He may, I shall not cease to use my best Endeavours, as well as my fervent Prayers.

I am aware of the Expensiveness of his living here: to lessen it in some measure, I have resolv'd to return his Horses back to You. He agreed They shou'd not be sent to Him till Easter: nor then, indeed, unless You hear more promises. Let us try what this Winter's close Application will do: We are now well fitted for it, & I think have a prospect of spending it as We ought. Let Joe bring back all his Vols: of Cicero, Livy, & as many others as his Portmanteau will hold: as well as a Small Parcel of mine, which He brought up from M^r Brook's, when We last came from S^t Mary's.

I am, D^r Sir

very truly, y^r much obliged
& most obed^t Hble Serv^t

JONA^N BOUCHER

ANNAPOLIS,
Dec^r 18th 1770.

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

TOWLSTON, December the 20th 1770—

DEAR SIR

I have received your Favor of the 14th and now inclose a copy of my Last Letter to M^r Savage, wherein I have told her my Sentiments very freely—and if you disire we should write a joint Letter ~~Letter~~ when we have the pleasure of meeting I shall be agreeable to it. I can't conveniently go down till the middle of January^{so} that at present I cant appoint any place of meeting even M^r Montgomerie—I have some thoughts of being at Alexandria in January Court, but it will depend on the weather & Circumstances. But as to the payment of the Money, I am inclined for my Part, either to settle it as M^r Montgomerie proposes, or to write to her to know whether she still objects to the payment of the Money to M^r Montgomerie or not, and if she does to send over another power in room of the other to some other Person—

I am

D^r SirY^r most obd^t Serv^tBRYAN FAIRFAX.

FROM COLONEL BERNARD MOORE.

DEAR SIR

My Circumstances are so situated as to make it Necessary for me to sell my whole Estate to pay my debts, & I am sory to inform you it will take every

shilling I have to effect that end, this will leave my Family (for whom only I feel) in a very distressful situation unless my friends will assist me in this my day of distress.

My long acquaintance with you and the Friendship that has ever subsisted between us, emboldens me to request the favour of you to join my other Friends in lending me money for a few years without interest, in which time, I hope to be able to work it out, as I have the advantage of working good Lands without paying Rent, but should I be mistaken I would not by any means have my friends suffer by me, I propose the Negroes should be bought in the name of the Gentleman who is so kind to lend the money & allways remain as Security to him for refunding his Principle

My Nephew M^r Aug: Seaton waits on you with this, who will inform you what my other friends propose doing, by whom I hope to receive your approbation of this Scheme & your kind assistance towards its execution.

I am sincerely

Dear Sir

Your Affectio: Serv^t

BER^d MOORE

12th Jan^y 1771

P:S:

I had given a Mortgage to M^r C. W. Claiborne for several things to the amount of a thousand pounds for his security for my Executorship to Spotswoods Estate¹ besides several

¹ Bernard Moore was one of the executors to the estate of John Spotswood, elder son of Governor Spotswood.

hundred pounds I had a wright to draw out of the hands of the Speakers Administrators, all which (as I owe Spotswoods Estate not one farthing) I have Mortgaged to you and others, that you may assure yourSelf your Brothers Estate cannot suffer one Shilling was his debt much larger.¹

B. M.

¹ COLCHESTER Jan^y 23^d 1771

DEAR SIR

Your Letter of the 12th Ins^t by M^r. Seaton was delivered to me at this place in my way to Dumfries where I was going upon an Arbitration ^{and} ~~^~~. — I am exceedingly sorry to hear of your unfortunate Circumstances and wish that ^{the situation of my own} ~~my own Affairs~~ ^{and} Engagements, would ^{permit} ~~suffer~~ me to subscribe more largely to your relief than they will; but having several pretty large Sums ^{of my own} ~~^~~ to pay in a short time it is utterly out of my power (with any sort of convenience) to advance more than One hundred pounds for the purpose ^{and on the terms} ~~^~~ you mention; this I am willing to do, and accordingly have wrote to the Trustees informing ^{them} ~~^~~ thereof — I have no doubt ^{of your putting} ~~but you will put~~ me upon as good a footing as any of the ~~rest~~ other Subscribers & therefore I shall say anything further on that head but again beg that something effectual may be done to secure myself & Brothers from the payment of your Bond to M^r. Lightfoots Estate ~~this would not only be a hardship upon us to do but be exceedingly inconvenient to accomplish~~ as I am sensible it would be attended with great Inconvenience to some of them to advance this money & be a hardship upon us all

I am D^r Sir

Y^r. Most Ob

H Serv^t

G^t. W——

COL^o. BERN^o. MOORE.

GENT^{rs}

Col^o. B^t Moore having informed me that he is endeavouring to make up a Sum of Money to purchase some Slaves for the immediate Support of his Family I do hereby agree to become Answerable ^{you as his Trustees} ~~you~~ on this acc^t. for the Sum of One Hund^d pounds ^{Curry} ~~^~~ payable a year hence. —

I am Gent^l. Y^r. Most Ob^t

G^t. W——

Jan^y 23^d 1771

To

CARTER BRAXTON Esq^r. &
the Gent^l. Trustees of Col^o.
B Moore.

VOL. IV.

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

DEAR SIR

I have just time to inform you by M^r Henderson that I sent up to M^r Smith and acquainted ^{him} that I had sold the Tract on little River provided he had not done so; and that he informed me that he had not, having been with some to look at the Land but as they had no Money he would not agree with them; so that you may depend upon having it if you don't dislike it when you come to see it.

With my Compliments to M^{rs} Washington I remain

D^r Sir Y^r most obed^t & obliged hble S^t

ALEXANDRIA

Janry the 20th 1771 —

BRYAN FAIRFAX.

I beg the favor of you
to give the inclosed to M^r Rind.¹

=====

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

DEAR SIR

I do very cordially sympathize with M^{rs} Washington in the uneasiness I can easily suppose She must necessarily be under during this State of Suspence. Her Son was, last Monday Ev'ning, innoculated in Baltimore: and tho' there really be in his Favour Every Thing that could be wished for, yet, I know She will be anxious & impatient till it be over. All

¹ William Rind.

I can do to ensure Succes She may depend on : & I can with Truth declare, that, at present, there is but a bare Possibility of his taking it unfavourable. In Truth, They make so very light of it in Baltimore, that one is almost ashamed even to mention a Suspicion of a Possibility of Failure. — We went upon the Monday ; & for Fear of his possibly catching it in the natural Way, I had Him innoculated immediately ; more especially as He was very eager for it, & in high Spirits. The Pill He took that Night made Him a little sick ; & Joe complain'd that His purged Him very unmercifully. I left Him yesterday at the Doctor's, where every thing seemed agreeable to Him ; I purpose being with Him again on the Monday, as his Fever will likely be a coming on, on the ^{Tuesday or} Wednesday, & Eruption on Thursday : all which Time I will be there. The Doctor promised to write to You as You requested. And should any occasion arise, You may depend on hearing from Me, ev'n by Express : So that, if You do not hear from Me, to the Contrary, M^r Washington may rest assur'd all is well — as I give You my Word & Honour that, if there be but ever so distant an Appearance of any thing unfavourable, I will not fail to communicate it to You immediately. There is a young Gentleman there (& but One, tho' more are daily expected) from Northampton County, of the name of Savage ; a modest, well-behav'd Man, & I believe the Clerk of a County there. He promised to be a Companion to Jack, & I dare say will be an acceptable one.

If any Thing should be the matter with His [word mutilated] They are to send Express to Me; & if They do, I shall have an Opp^y of letting You know of it by the Post — if I do not, conclude All is well. — Shou'd I not write [mutilated] Week from Baltimore, which yet I intend to do, be not uneasy. — This will be brought to You by M^r Templeman, & being written in a Hurry in a crowded Store, must I fear be confused. All I am & wish is to make You & M^r Washington easy; & I hope You will be so, in Confidence that if there really were any Appearance of Danger, I wou'd not, from a mistaken Tenderness, Conceal it from You.

I beg my aff^t Comp^t (as Jack also does) to his Mamma, Sister, y^rself & M^r Washington, & am, very truly

y^r most obed^t Hble Serv^t

JONA^N BOUCHER

ANNAPOLIS

11th of Ap^r 1771.

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

SIR

SPRING GARDEN April 15th 1771

I Received your^s of March ye 11th and I am much supris'd at M^r Brooks beheaviour in Regard to that Land he never had the Least Claim or pretentions to the Medows that I Ever herd of M^r Harrison maid use of the Name of W^m Brooks Expecting that W^m Brooks as his son in law would do him the faviour to give him an Assignment at any time, but as M^r Harrison has got a permit there was no Occasion of

an Assignment or of an order of survey for any surveyor would have survey^d the Land on the permit and Returnd it into the Office which would have bin Excepted of, any order of Survey that he cold have got^{would not do} inclosed you have a bond from M^r Harrison for the Setling the Matter and Making good the Title he says if that you want it don it shall be Returnd in your own name as soon as the Survey is Completed^{it} and he will Setle all Dispute in Regard to it.

There is one William Brooks here [w]ho has agreed to sign the Bill of Sail which is Equil as any man of that name will do as well as him, his having no claim or Right more then any other man of that name, he says that is all he can do at Present, any thing more that is Requeset he will do if Required and if not the Bargain must be Void and he have his papers again as he can sell it Emedatly to Several People who will pay no Regard to Brooks Claim Looking unpon it as nothing worth.

As the Bearer Moses Crawford¹ is Obliged to go of Emedatly I shall Refair give² a full Account of my Proceedings here for a few days longer as I have an [opportunity?] in a few days and then will give as full an account as I am able

I am Der sir in hast your most Hum^l Sarvant —

W CRAWFORD

¹ Captain Crawford's nephew.

² Defer giving.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

ANNAPOLIS 19th Apr. 1771.

DEAR SIR

I feel much Heart felt Satisfaction in having it in my Power to inform You that M^r Custis is now out of all Danger of the Small-Pox, in D^r Stephenson's own Phrase, He cannot now die if He would. I have been with Him all this Week, & shou'd not yet have left Him, but that I knew You wou'd wish & expect an Acc^t— & I cou'd only give one, by coming down hither, to catch the Post that sets out this Ev'ning. Yesterday when He left Baltimore, no Pocks had appear'd; & I was unwilling to write, till I cou'd have something more certain to say. This Morning, I found three, & about five Hours ago, when We parted, I could but count Eight, which I believe will be his whole Number. His Fevers began on Monday, & were sometimes pretty high; yet never so much as to confine Him above now & then an Hour or so to his Bed. In short, I think I have now seen better Authority than ever to say, that the Small Pox, in this artificial Manner, is really nothing; its Virulence is so abated & subdued, that I now no longer wonder to find Men think so little about it as They do in Baltimore. And to Me, the whole secret seems to be in keeping Them cool: Custis, I believe, has not been within five yards of a Fire, since He went to Baltimore. I sh^d wrong Him not to add, that He has been exceedingly manageable, & always in Spirits; much more so than his Country man Savage. The Doctor bestows many Encomiums on Him: I

believe He wou'd hardly have had one Pustule, had not the Doctor, at my Request (for I thought, tho' in Point of real Usefulness, it seems it was a matter of no kind of Consequence, his Mamma wou'd chuse He shou'd have Some) given Him someth^e warm to provoke them out Joe, I fancy, will hardly have one; unless the same Means try'd this Morning may bring them out: it is, however, quite sufficient that the Arm is enflamed, & that He has had the Fevers. Jack's, as I remember, are one on his Neck, an other by his Ear, one on his Breast, two on one Arm & one on Another, & two on one Leg; not one on his Face. Ere I left Him, his Fever was quite gone, and I never in my Life saw Him better: so that I cannot but congratulate You & M^{rs} Washington on this dreaded affair's being so easily & happily over.

He is not to be down till the Monday Sennight, which, I guess, will be about the Time of your setting out on your Trip downwards.

D^r Stephenson desir'd Me to apologize for his not writing to You, as being very busy, & not having any Thing very particular to communicate. His general Price is, two Pistoles, & 25/. a Week for Board. I shall have Occasion, next Week, to write more fully on this & other matters: at present, being a good deal fatigued, & a little unwell, I beg leave only to add, that

I am, with great Truth
Y^r very faithful Fr^d & Serv^t
JONA^N BOUCHER

P. S

Wheat, in yonder busy Town

I have just left, I think is 6/.
 some Days ago, 'twas 6/3; &
 Flour 16/. — You know they
 have 112 lb to the Cw^t —



FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

Aprial 20th 1771

SIR

Agreeable to your Request I want¹ to vew Col^o
 Cro[g]han^a Land but before it cold be done the Line
 was to [be] run which I Attended [to] and vew^d the
 [w]hole, but cold not find the Quantity of Land you
 wanted nor one thousand [acres] such as you wanted
 or such as I would have to be Laid of as he wanted
 me to Lay it of, there was som good Land on Roc-
 koon² Creek along they Creek but very hilley of from
 the Creek they hills of they Poorest sort all Piney
 where the bottoms is of any goodness, What Land is
 worth anything is alredy taken by som body that
 coms within the Line we run, but ^{the} Col^a is not Content
 with that Line as he thinks it dos not includ Lands
 enough I am Afraid he has not a proper title to what
 he now is Claiming, but I have waved giveing him any
 certain Answear about the Land any how as Long as
 I can Posably avoid it, I have found som good Tracts
 of Land on the head of Shirtee^a Creek and the head
 of Rockoon Creek that is good Level farming Land
 and good Medow but not that Quantity you want
 I beleve I can procure you a Tract in one body of

¹ Went.

² Raccoon.

3000 Acres very good well watered and about 15 or 20 Miles from the Fort I have not told him where the Land Lys and I am Afraid to tell him till he Run^{*} the Line for I think if he new of it he would run it in one purpose to have^{the} Seling of it to you as he Peek^{*} him self much upon it, and makes it a handle to all bargain he is on Making with other People

I have told him that I have found som Land, and if it Coms in his Land or in his Line I will agree with him for it I have Run it out and have hired som hands to work on it in order to hold the Land till I now how to com by a right for it as it is very good. I think you^{may} have between 3 or 4 thousand Acres in on body very good Land for farming

You may Depend on my being as casous¹ as you cold wish in every Pertiquel^{of the Solder Lands²} and as soon as I can finish the out Lins shall wait on you which I hop will be in the first of Aug^t I shall the[n]^{run} out Lins going Down and the River coming back as it then it will be Low and I can Mashure up the beach, you shall hear from me by all safe Oppertunitys

I am Sir your most Hum^l

Sarvant

W,, CRAWFORD

¹ Cautious.

² Soldier lands. William Crawford had been appointed surveyor of the 200,000 acres granted to the officers of the Virginia regiment.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

ANNAPOLIS, May the 3^d 1771.

DEAR SIR

I have seldom found myself worse disposed to write, than I now am ; being exceedingly displeased with M^r Custis, that, according to my express Desire to Him, He is not Here Himself, to write to put both Yourself & his Mother out of all further Anxiety on his Account. On Saturday last, He sent Me word, He would come down on the Monday, but the Doctor being of Opinion that possibly He might give some Alarm to the People here, advis'd Me to let Him remain a few Days longer. I did so ; & it having happened that a M^r Gough, a Gentleman of Rank & Fortune of his Acquaintance in Baltimore, was to be married either Yesterday or to-Day, I take it for granted He has been prevail'd upon to stay on that Account. For I have seen a Gentleman of Baltimore, who tells Me He was quite well on Wednesday. So that there wants nothing but Himself to say so, to put every Thing out of all Doubt. And this being the Case, I guess you will continue to think it right still to Forbear mentioning it to M^r Washington, till the next Week,¹ when (shou'd He not have wrote You from Baltimore, as I hardly dare to hope He has) We will assuredly both write. In the mean Time, I thought it wou'd be more acceptable

¹ Washington had preferred to keep his wife in ignorance of his intention in sending her son to Baltimore. In a letter dated April 20, 1770 (71?) (see Ford's *Writings of Washington*, vol. ii. p. 276), he says, "Indeed I believe was she come to the knowledge of being at Baltimore (under Innoculation) it woud put an infallible stop to her journey to Williamsburg."

to You to have Ev'n this imperfect Acc^t, than none at all.

I am y^r most Obed^t & very H^{ble} Serv^t
JONAN^N BOUCHER

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

ANNAPOLIS, May the 9th 1771 —

DEAR SIR

The Season of Suspence, I thank God, is now over: M^r Washington, without the Fears that wou'd have been unavoidable during a State of Uncertainty, will have the Pleasure of learning from undoubted Authority, that her Son is happily & easily releas'd from a formidable Disorder, without hardly one Mark to tell that He ever had it. He is as well as ever He was in his Life: indeed has such strong Symptoms of Health, as we almost find inconvenient at this scarce Season of the Year, & dear Markets.

A M^r Buckner of the Parish I left in Virginia gave Me a Power of Attorney to settle a Law Suit She had here. I have agreed to take 50 £ this Currency for her Claim, which Money is to be paid to my Order this Week in Baltimore, & out of it, I have ordered my Friend there to pay D^r Stephenson's Acc^t, as well as some other little Claims M^r Custis has left there. His Acc^t, I fear, will run high, as I see They have charg'd Him at the Rate of 10/. a Week for the Pasturage of his Horses, & This in the Country; which I have refused to pay. He has also, very idly I think, exchang'd his Grey Horse,

for a large clumsy black One, & is to give £4 Boot. — Having receiv'd Nothing from my Parish here, nor indeed being likely soon to receive any Thing; & as You may easily conceive that I have been put to pretty much Expence, I begin to find it difficult to find Cash to support my Family. I have therefore thought of desir^g the Fav^r of You to pay this £50 Mary^{ld} Curr^r, in your Way up from W^mburg, on my Acc^t; either to Coll: J^{no} Thornton, or if You shou'd not chance to see Him, to M^r James Maury, a Merch^t in Fredricksb^g. I hope this will not be inconvenient to You; &, after paying off all M^r Custis's Acc^{ts}, there will not be very much left for Me, which, however I will be duly careful to acc^t for when We settle. Exchange here, I am told, is at 66¹/₃, which will regulate your Paym^t of this Money.

Sundry Papers have been put into my Hands by a M^r Harrison, from some Person in England, attempting, in Consequence of an Advertisem^t of Yours in the English Papers, to prove his being true & lineal Heir to — Colvill, to whom, I think, You were left Executor.¹ I have promised to Speak with You on the Subject; but as the Papers are bulky, shall

¹ The Colville estate in 1792 was still unsettled, as is shown by two entries in Washington's *Ledger*.

1791		Sterl ^g	Currency.		
January 1	To Cash p ^d Edw ^d Tilghman Esq ^r by order of Miss Harriet Rebecca Anderson, in £ full of a legacy of 80 sterling left her by Col ^l Colvill's will, with interest amounting to				
		176.0.0	234	13	4
1792		. . .	757	7	6
Oct ^r 3	To Cash p ^d James Keith Esq ^r for the use of William Ansley, Administ ^r of Mary Monkhouse				

Forbear to send them, till your Return to Mount Vernon. In the mean Time, I hope They will not be excluded from their Claim for Want of asserting it in due Time.

Mr Johnson has also left with Me another large Cargo of Physic for Miss Custis; of the Efficacy of which in working a total Cure, He seems unusually confident. This too I shall not send till You return.

A Letter for You, brought by a Vessel to this Place, I take the Liberty of directing to You in Williamsburg.

You will not wonder that I request to know, as soon as it may be in your Power, what your final Determination is wth Respect to this young Gentleman's going Home.¹ On his Account, it were better to have it certainly known: &, on my own, it is highly necessary. However eager my Inclination might be for the Scheme, should it still, after mature Deliberation, appear to Yourself & your Friends, prudent to be at such an Expence, I am not now sure it would be in my Power to embrace the Offer. I am not indeed sure that I could resist ~~the offer~~; tho' it would certainly be highly indiscreet in Me to turn myself once more adrift into the wide World, without first securing to myself a comfortable Retreat. And I

¹ The project of sending his ward to Europe to complete his education was finally abandoned by Washington, but he was still undecided in his reply to Dr. Boucher. "My own inclinations," he says, "have always been strong in favour of prosecuting the plan you formerly laid down for him — his Friends a good deal divided in theirs. . . . I conceive there is much greater circumspection to [be observed] by a Guardian than a natural Parent who is only accountable to his own Conscience for his conduct." — *FORD's Writings of Washington.*

have not, at present, such fair Prospects as I thought I had, but a Week ago. There is a Parish vacant, not twenty Miles from Mount Vernon where I shall hardly need to say I wou'd rather be than any where else in Maryland. And I thought I had been sure of it: indeed I hope I still am, tho' the Governor says He expects from England a Schoolfellow & a Relation of his own to fill it up. If this Gentleman does not come in, which I fear may not be known for some months to come, I think I shall be appointed to it. If I am, I flatter myself I shall, without much Difficulty be able so to settle Matters as to put it in my Power to pursue this favorite Plan: of which, however, it is but Justice to myself to own that, with Respect to myself, I am not nearly so anxious as I have been. — Life wastes apace, &, unmindful of y^e silent lapse of Time, I have already trifled away but too great a Part of it: it is not therefore to be wondered at, if, in my cooler moments of Recollection, I wish for a Settlement.

I beg your pardon for all this Egotism, uninteresting to You; this Week or two I have not been very well; if in This, & my former Letters, I have been disagreeably troublesome, I trust You will be so obliging as to impute it to that Cause.

If it be at all inconvenient to You to pay this Money on your Way upwards; or, if You may probably stay longer than June, I beg You to inform Me, as I can then [covered by seal in original] upon some Expedient. — I will also put your English Letter into the Post Office here, & hope They will forward it from Alexandria, without any fresh Cover.

I beg my respectful Comp^{ts} to M^r. Washington &
Miss Custis: & am, D^r. Sir

Y^r. much obliged

& most obed^t. Hble Serv^t.

JONA^N. BOUCHER

posey, I hear, is in Prison
Bounds.

FROM CAPTAIN JOHN POSEY.

QUEENS TOWN, May 25th 1771

SIR,

I wrote you Last month, when I was at the Pro-
vinsiall Court, and to M^r. Tho^s. Lawson, to be kind
Enough, to Lett my son John, come here, that he
shu^d. Return in few days, his not Coming, I sup-
pose the Letters never got to hand, these [I] Expect
will by M^r. Haul Merch^t. Alexandrae — Your Letter.
you wrote me the 20-January Last, I Rec^d. the first of
Last month — Contents Observ^d. — Your not having
any Conection, with the Appeal, of Captⁿ. John West,
to the Generall Court, the^{Reasons} you give, is Satisfaction
to me — I am convinc^d. M^r. West will never Recover
it, if I have Justice done me, if he has not got Judg-
ment ~~against~~ for them few Acres, this Last Generall
Court, I [will] be Prepair^d. for Esq^r. West against
the fall, he has been Very Troublesome body to me,
during his Aunt[s] Lifetime, he had many sute,
Brought against me, if any [treated?] the old woman
in the familiar way, or negros acquaint^d. him any fool-
ish thing, a sute^{was} Emediatly Brought — M^r. Harrison

was my Counsell, And I gave him Six Dollars in hand, Conserning M^r Rosss¹ sute against me, he s^d there was noe such ~~thing as~~ Law, or Reason, for Reale Es^t to be made Liabile to be sold, for Debt — I confess that I know nothing about the Law, in I want Justice — my Oconomy has been bad, its wou'd be Excessive hard, for them few Acres, and what little Improvements, to be sold for Little or nothing, in case M^r Esq^r West shu'd be mistaken and Luse it — M^r Tho^s Ringgold Treated me, Excessive Ill, ~~in~~ Emplying to you for negroe Jack, he knew that the fellow was your Property, I show'd him the In-strement writing you gave me, he then said, notwithstanding, he wou'd give me £90-0-0. Maryland Currency, my Answer to him, if he wou'd give £200. he shu'd not have the fellow unless it was Agreeable to you, M^r Ringgold^{was} my Security for gitting Letters to Administer on my wife's Es^t I Loug'd² five negroes with him, untill her debts was Paid, after they were Apprais'd, he want'd them at the Apprays'dment, I want'd them sold to the highest bidder, he wou'd not Allow it, that made him Angry, its still in that Possession — as he is Very Able Person — And^I was under Dread, he mite git Possession of Jack — and give you trouble, coming or sending for him, Perhaps a Law sute before you could get Poss[ess]ion of him again — Caus'd me to Send^{him} to you — I have all my Life time Acted honest and is determ'd to doe so, ~~my Life time~~ Lett me^{suffer} ever so much — If M^r West,

¹ Hector Ross, of Colchester.

² Lodged.

has not got Judgment, for my Little Lands, And Improvements, on Potowmack River, Pray will you be kind enough, to send me some cash by my son John, I Really am in great want, my Letting Hanson, have Part my Cloaths, when he was over last fall, causes me to suffer — I ow'd for my son S^t Lawrences Schooling — I had my old Shirrts, and things cut up for him, to keep ^{him} ~~his~~ in cloaths, that he mite be at scool — I Dont Pay any thing for his Board — he will understand Arithmetick well enough by the fall, [to be] Put into some Business M^r Cowdon the scool master says he is [a] fine boy & Learns fast — If I can be able to keep him at school untill the fall, I shall be satisfied — with your assistance I can — If M^r West has not Judgment for the Land, You dont owe me any Rent — untill November,¹ things [of] this sort, I know is Disagreeable, to you, its [a] Case [of] necessity Causes ~~to~~ me to be so Presing, — my son Johns, Receit if you are kind Enough, to send me Any Cash, will be good, I made Bold to give Hanson [an] order on you, for twenty shillings Maryland Currency, Last month, when I was at Annapolis, — it Gives me Double Satisfaction, that my son John, is with so worthy a man as M^r Lawson,² — I have wrote M^r Law^{son} ^{son he} if ~~he~~ could spard him to come here, that he shu'd Return in few days, — I am much Oblidge to you, for Prevailing on M^r Lawson to take him — I have wrote M^r Lawson that If John Does not obey

¹ For the use of the ferry which crossed the Potomac from Captain Posey's place to Thomas H. Marshall's (Marshall Hall). The charge for a man and horse was one shilling each. See Hening, vol. vi. p. 375.

² Robert Lawson, of Fairfax County.

his orders, to Give him Severe Repremand, to keep him Closly Employed — You was speaking to me Last^{Spring} that there was Probility, of the offisers, in the Virginnae Regments, having some Lands on the Ohio, if so you [are] inclin'd to Purchass, if there is any such thing, you may have my Part, for what you think is the Value of it¹ — I hope to be clare of this Place, by the fall, its Disagreeable Life to me to be Idle —

I could [have] been able to [have] Satisfied all my old Arrears, Some months AGoe, by marrying [an] old widow woman in this County, She has Large soms [of] cash by her, and Prittey good Es^t — She is as thick, as she is high — And gits drunk at Least three or foure [times] a weak — which is Dis^agreable to me — has Viliant Sperrit when Drunk — its been [a] Great Dispute in my mind what to Doe, — I beleave I shu'd Run all Resk's — if my Last wife, had been [an] Even temper'd woman, but her Sperrit, has Given me such [a] Shock — that I am afraid to Run the Resk Again, when I see the object before my Ey[e]s [it] is Disagreeable — Your favour, with my Request, will lay me under the Greatest Obligations — — — — —

I am Sir

your ob^t and most Humble s^t

JN^O POSEY.

¹ 1772

Octob^r. 14. By Cash p^d Capt^r Posey for his Right to 3000 }
Acres of Land und^r y^r Kings Proclama- }
tion of Oct^r. 1763 — 5 half Joes . . .

£11.11.3

(Washington's *Ledger*.)

FROM MR. ROBERT ADAM.¹

DEAR SIR

I'm favoured with yours and Observe the Contents your Orders by the Adventure shall be pointedly and particularly taken notice of — I was this Morning a good deal Alarmed when we began to Overhaul your Herrings² the first 3 or 4 Barrels we opened were in exceeding Bad Order On the top they were laid in promiscuously without either form of packing or Salt and most of those they were filled up with were really Spoiled Herrings I had then determined to Relieve you of it and proceed no further, thinking it would be against your Interest to ship them as at all Events you had the freight to pay, but I was determined to have a Generall View of them and to my Satisfaction I found them in Generall turn out much better than they did at the begining, some of them I had re-packed half way down, and filled up with fresh salt and after overhauling the whole which I have done this day they have lost a Barrel & taken about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Barrel of wine $2\frac{1}{2}$ Bushels Salt and the Labour of

¹ Of the firm of Carlyle & Adam, afterwards Adam & Co., merchants in Alexandria. Robert Adam was the son of Abednego Adam, of Fairfax County, Virginia.

² "Agreed with M^r. Rob^t. Adam for the Fish catchd at the Fishing Landing I bought of Posey, on the following terms. — to wit

He is obliged to take all I catch at that place provided the quantity does not exceed 500 Bar^t — and will take more than this q^y if he can get Cask to put them in — He is to take them as fast as they are catchd without giving any interruption to my people; and is to have the use of the Fish House for his Salt, fish, &c^t taking care to have the House clear at least before the next Fishing Season

In consideration of which he is to pay me Ten pounds for the use of the House; give $\frac{3}{4}$ a thous^d for the Herrings (Virg Money) and $\frac{8}{4}$ a hundred (Maryland Curr^t) for the white fish.

M^r. Piper and Lund Washington present." —

(Washington's *Diary*, February 3, 1770.)

a Cooper & 2 other hands so that you have now in your Mark Shiped 39 Barrels in pretty good Order.

In regard to your former sales I Observe yours from Robert M^cMickan, And see that the whole quantity shipped was Consigned from you to him so that the £50.10.1 which he says may be nigh the net proceeds Includes the Freight, Commission &c., All he says to us on the Subject is Viz. The goods Coll^d Washington Ordered are Ship't to him & I believe will be full as much as the proceeds of his herrings will amount to. — This is all I know of the matter and believe I may be right that the freight is included I have not yet had their sales but Expect them dayly when I shall better inform you. —

I cannot Ascertain the quantity of Herrings as I was but now & then down I thought that M^r Washington¹ & M^r Campbel² had fixed that as I repeatedly desired them when they were packing them to Count 3 or 4 Barrels every day and at the End to Avarage them & this I looked upon to be the most equitable way both for you & me And this I hope they have done so that it may be fixed to your Satisfaction I am with all my most sincere Endeavours to Serve you Most Respectfully

Your Most Obed^t & very

Humb: Serv^t

ROBERT ADAM

June 24th 1771

(Daylight quite gone.

1 Lund Washington.

2 John Campbell.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

ANNAPOLIS, July the 4th 1771.

DEAR SIR

I am sorry to have thrown any additional Difficulties in your Way, respecting the Affair of M^r Custis's Tour. At the Time I wrote, Difficulties seem'd to be starting up before Me, which I fear'd could not otherwise be remov'd than by dropping all Thoughts of leaving Maryland. I wish'd, from many Motives, to accompany M^r Custis: it was, however, as You will readily allow Me to declare, but the second Wish of my Heart, my first was, that I might be independent. After what I had already experienced, it wou'd have been terrible to have again thrown myself into the wide World, without having first secur'd a comfortable Retreat to return to. And, I fear'd, it was^{too} much to ask both a competent Living, & such extraordinary Leave of Absence. I have now, however, the very high Pleasure to inform you, that, with Respect to myself, things are much altered; and, if you can make it suitable in other Respects, I am willing & ready to accompany M^r Custis, on the proposed Tour — I am at Liberty to add, on this Condition only, that we set out some time in the next Year — Contrary to the Sentim^{ts} of my Friends, who thought it better that I should first get my Induction into the Living I mentioned to You in my Last, ere I presum'd to make this other Request to the Gov^r, I resolv'd openly & candidly to lay before Him my real Views; with which He was so well pleased, as to promise Me the Parish, so soon as ever it should be

in his Power, & also Leave of Absence for one Year only, at a Time, but renewable: an Expedient He is obliged to Use, thro' a Fear of giving Cause of Offence to the People here so unreasonably jealous of any Extension of Prerogative. — I have had much Talk with Him on the Subject. He had often taken a particular Notice of M^r Custis, &, on this Occasion, professes a strong Desire to oblige Him, and You: and it may be, that I owe, in some Measure, the exceeding obligi[n]gness He shew'd to Me in this Matter, to his Desire of being instrumental to the promoting a Scheme He so highly approves of. It will be in his Power to give M^r Custis Letters, which may be very useful to Him; and This He will do with much Pleasure. In short, both He & M^r Dan^l Dulany, with whom also, at your Request, I have convers'd on the Subject, highly approve of the Project — *in Case, M^r Custis's Estate will afford it.* I said, I believ'd it might be now worth £1000, or 1200 Ster^l ₤ ann., which M^r Dulany, judging from his own Experience wth his own Son, thinks abundantly sufficient. Yet, he says, Expences in Travel are so exceedingly vague, uncertain & variable that there is no ascertaining, exactly, what may be a proper allowance. His Son has cost Him from £100 to 1000£ In Paris, I think, He says, He spent £500 in three months, besides the Salary to his Tutor. Upon the whole, however, He is of Opinion, that, one Year with another, M^r Custis can hardly need to exceed the Income of his Estate.

In debating this part of the Argum^t, it deserves no little Attention to enquire, how much of his an-

nual Income He would probably expend, if He should continue these three Years in Virginia. Living with You, or under your immediate Influence, He probably wou'd be restrain'd within proper Bounds, especially, as I do not think He naturally is of an expensive Turn. But, I am mistaken, if, with the most rigid Oeconomy, adapted to his Circumstances, He fell much short of what it will cost Him at Home, exclusive, I mean, of the Expence of his Tutor. And shou'd He unluckily fall into the Habit of dealing in Horses, or but ⁱⁿ a very moderate Degree, Sporting as it is called, neither of which He could well avoid, from the general Prevalence of Example, I need only direct your Eyes to many young Gentlemen, of fair Hopes, so circumstanced, to convince You, that it is not likely to be much more costly to Him to spend these three perilous Years abroad, than at Home. — But, what a Difference, my dear Sir, in the manner of spending them, & in the Consequences! To Me, it is so very striking, that I own I shall sorely lament, if, with your very proper & right Sentiments on the Matter, any untoward Circumstances shou'd yet arise from any other Quarter, to prevent it

I have, in many of my former Letters, already said so much on the Subj^t of Travelling, that I am fearful of falling into Repetitions. I will only add now, what I do not recollect ever before to have mentioned, that it is more peculiarly necessary to Him, than most Youths I have known. He has that Placid Indolence of Nature, & Flexibility of Temper, in his Mind & Manners, which require some better Know-

ledge of y^e World, than He is likely here to acquire, to guard Him against y^e Consequences of too much Compliance & Confidence in the Generality of Mankind.

There is, to a delicate Mind, much force in some specious objections which You suppose may be urged, from the Consideration of your being but his Guardian. But, They vanish at the approach of fair Reasoning, as it were at the Touch of Ithuriel's Spear. You are in Duty bound to promote M^r Custis's Interest by every Means in your power, & I am sure it is not more your Duty, than it is your Inclination. If, therefore, both Yourself, and every other cool, dispassionate, & well-informed Friend be fully persuaded that thus alone You will most effectually promote his true & lasting Interest, ought You to be deterr'd by the vain Fears & mistaken Apprehensions of others? At this Rate Nothing good or great must ever be done in Life, & You have already far exceeded your Commission, even wth Regard only to this young Gentleman. I reason upon This, as upon y^e other Occurrences of Life. I wou'd gladly do what, upon mature Deliberation & the fullest Enquiry, appear'd to be my Duty; and if, after This, malicious or ignorant People wou'd still put an ill-natured or unfair Construction on my well-meant Aims, I must be contented to bear it, as I do the other Ills of Life, as Something that might vex Me, but shou'd not make Me very uneasy, nor unhappy.

Upon the whole, I do very earnestly wish, and, if I might have Leave, I would request, that this Matter may, as soon as possible, be determined either the one

Way or the other. The next Spring, if I recollect aright, is the Era I always fix'd on for setting out; and there are many Reasons why it should not, and not one that I can recollect why it should, be postponed beyond that Period. And, to Me, as You will easily believe, it must be desirable, as well indeed, as essentially necessary, to know what is resolv'd on, as soon as may be. My little Affairs will require some Time to put Them into such a position as I shall wish to leave Them in; and, I suppose, it might be convenient to You too, to know certainly, e're you sent home this Year's Invoice. If M^r. Washington & Yourself, & his nearest Friends approve of it, there is little Likelihood, that the General Court will disapprove: would it not be a strange Exertion of Power, if They should? Yet, it is right, They should be consulted, & their Consent obtained. Gov^r. Eden strongly urges the Expediency of a six Months Tour thro' America 'ere He cross'd the Atlantic: it is certainly right, if for no other Reason [mutilated] that a Man might not seem totally unacquainted with his own Country. Is it quite romantic in Me to expect, that, possibly, You might find Leisure to spend a few Months in our Party? April or May wou'd be about the Time for setting out.

I am much concern'd at your Apprehensions of M^r. Custis's slender Improvements. And, to shew You how thankfully I receive such Notices, I will not deny, that, possibly, there may be some Foundaⁿ for y^r. Fears, & that, moreover, some part of y^r. Blame, possibly, belongs to Me. I will go farther, & say that both He & I, as the K. of Prussia said, hereafter will

do better. After This, let Me now have Leave to add that his Improvem^t, tho' not equal to what They might have been, are, I believe, not inferior to Those of any other young Man so circumstanced. Nay, I will venture to say, He is a better Scholar than Most of his Years & Standing. He is not, indeed, as You observe, much farther advanced, than under M^r Magowan. I cou'd here say a good deal: let This suffice, that I hope He now knows, by just principles, what heretofore, He had acquir'd by Rote only. He has apply'd more closely of late, & has begun Arithmetic, over again; & on his Return, is to enter upon French. There is a Deal of Difference to be observed in y^e Educatⁿ a Gentleman, & a mere Scholar.

You will receive Physic from M^r Johnson, & enclosed, his Directions, as well as D^r Stevenson's rec^t, & mine. And the papers, respect^s y^e Claim to Colvill Est^e, of w^{ch} I beg y^r Care, as well as that You will, wth in y^r power, direct Me wth Ans^r to return to y^e Man, who put Them into my Hands for You. I am &c J. BOUCHER

In the Hurry of Writing, I had well nigh forgot a Commission a Friend gave Me to You. M^r Lloyd Dulany of this City, is going to the Springs this Season — He understands You have a House there — if unoccupy'd & unengag'd, He w^{ld} be much oblig'd to You for Leave to make Use of it.

I saw Coll. Cresap yesterday — He seems quite confident, the new Grant will take Place, & is taking his Measures accordingly. — Gov^r Eden hears, that many of y^e Regulators have pass'd thro' this

Province, & is surpriz'd Gov^r Tryon has not sent Expresses to the sundry Gov^{rs} on y^e Supposiⁿ that They would.

FROM ARTHUR LEE, ESQ.¹

DEAR SIR/

When I sit down to solicit your patronage; I trust more to your goodness, than to any claim I can have on your favor from merit or acquaintance.

Having understood, that it is probable the Assembly will revive the Agency-bill; I take the liberty of entreating your vote & interest, in being appointed. Knowing what influence you very justly possess; I shall greatly depend for success, on your approbation. The desire of serving my immediate Country, in so respectable a character, is I think a laudable ambition; & if an entire devotion to her interests, be a sufficient recommendation, I can plead it with truth.

Shoud, however, the revival of the Agency-bill, appear to you, not tending to the good of the Colony; I woud not be understood to wish, that you shoud depart one jot from that great line, to promote me. It is only on a supposition, that an Agent shoud be deemed necessary, that I offer my service. In doing the duty of this office, I hope zeal & assiduity will supply the want of great abilities; & enable me to serve the House, with satisfaction & success.

¹ Sixth son of Thomas and Hannah (Ludwell) Lee, born December 20, 1740; died December 12, 1792.

I beg the favor, Sir, of being remembered to M^r Washington, & to her fair Daughter; who is I hope entirely recovered from the indisposition, that formerly affected her.

I have the honour of being
with great esteem,

LONDON
July 10th 1771.

Dear Sir Your most Ob^t
Humb^l Serv^t

ARTHUR LEE.

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

STEWART CROSSING¹ Aug^t 2^d 1771

SIR/

I have done nothing With Col^o Crohan in regard to the Land you want of him as yeat, as I cold see none of his Land in his Line now run that will answer to be Laid of as he wants it Laid of — I have found som at about 15 or 16 mils distance from Fort pitt which is very good farming Land and good Medow Land as any, the up Land [is] Level or no more hilly in common to to Lay the ground dry. The Tract is Like Gist and full as good as his Land and as Level The Draft of which I shall show you

¹ Stewart's Crossing (frequently written in the plural) was so called from the circumstance of William Stewart having lived near the place in the year 1753 and a part of 1754, when he was driven away by the French. It was Crawford's home, situated on what, at that date, was known as Braddock's road, the place on the Youghiogheny where Braddock crossed on his march against Fort Duquesne in 1755. It was in Augusta County, Virginia, as claimed by that province; subsequently, in the district of West Augusta; and, finally, in Yohogania (not Youghiogheny) County, until 1779, when Virginia relinquished her claim to that section. As claimed by Pennsylvania, it was, at that date, in Bedford (formerly a part of Cumberland); afterwards in Westmoreland; and, finally, in Fayette County — where the town of New Haven is now located, opposite Connellsville, forty-three miles from Pittsburg. — BUTTERFIELD.

when I com Down. I do not now wheather Croghan will take this in his Line or not, he is to have a Tract Laid of by his Survayor for you on Mingo Creek which is good Land but I do not no as yeat what Quantity there will be as it is not done but is to be done and I am to bring for your Porusel the Draft when I com Down it is to be as large as the good Land will admit of Any how in a Square which is the way he will have his Land run out I shall Close nothing any how with him till I see you which will be as soon as posable I can get my bissness don up the river but I dout much runing any Land on Tiger Valey¹ as people in general is very contentious for want of the Law properly Established amongst them but if Posably to be done I will do it

I have run out the difernt tracts of Land discribed in your memorandum between the Litle Canaway and the big Canaway and that Tract above the Captining² or opposit to Pipe Creek, it is not Large I have [not] made out the Draft yeat nor shall I do any till I com Down to your house I saw a Letter from M^r Tilghman in regard to Col^o Croghan and he say^t Croghan has no right to any Land as yeat nor can not tell weather he ever will have any from the Crown, he claims it from an Endien Deed, and is making out patents to such as will by of him, but M^r Tilghman say^t in his Letter I hope person^s should ask themselves how they would com by there mony again if in a few years this title should be fond not good.

¹ So called from David Tygart, who, with Robert Foyle, was the first occupant of West Virginia, west of the mountains; his settlement was the site of the present town of Beverly, Randolph County; it was destroyed by the savages in November, 1753. — BUTTERFIELD.

² Captina Creek.

I am^{to} view his Land on Mingo Creek^{again} before I com
Down and if it should not be his Land, it may be
you can make it your Own Land hereafter

I have nothing Matiral more of Let you now that
I can think of but I am with respect your most

Hum! Sarvant

W., CRAWFORD

N B Mingo Creek Emtys into
monongahalia above the
mouth of Youchagania
and the Land is near the
head it is a small Creek

FROM COLONEL GEORGE CROGHAN.¹

FORT PITT Augst 18th 1771

DEAR SIR

I Should have Wrote you long ago in answer to y^r
of 24th No^{br} [?] butt y^e Spring Turn^d out Such Wether
as prevented My Survair from Runing y^e out Lines
of My Grant, on Cap! Craffords Reconster* [?] how-
ever this Sumer I have had that Don & y^e Whole
Lay^d of in Townships,

I Now Inclose you a Draft of one Near the Mo-

¹ George Croghan, who was perhaps one of America's most popular Indian agents, was born in Ireland. He settled in Pennsylvania, and in 1746 began trading with the western tribes of Indians, whose language he familiarized himself with, and over whom he gained an influence that he ever afterwards retained. In 1756 Sir William Johnson made him deputy Indian agent, and in 1763 sent him to England to confer with the ministry on the question of the Indian boundary line. In 1766 he made a settlement on the Allegany four miles from Fort Pitt. Colonel Croghan served as captain of guides and scouts through the Braddock campaign, and up to the beginning of the Revolution performed many important services in reconciling the Indians to British rule and invasion. He died in Philadelphia, August, 1782.

nonongela Cap^t Crafford has been Chieffly over y^e whole & Tells Me he Knows the Land will So that I shall Say Nothing About the quality Butt Refer you to him, if [you] Like the Tract you Shall have itt at five pounds Sterling ^{per} hundred Subject to the Kings Quitrents only as I promis^d you when hear¹

My last Leters from England was y^e 5th of June w^h Leves No Doubt butt the New Charter Government wold be Confirm^d, Confirm^d in Some Days after

By My Leters it apears that Nothing Retarded that Meter² but the Diferancess att home between the parlament & City of London, as I hourly Expect Cap^t Trent he having Determind to Sail in y^e July packett, on his ARival I shall Know whether I yett Stand a Shair in y^e New Colony or Nott, and Shall Write you on that Subject, if I Stand a Shair I will Make you a proposial

If itt be in My power to Serve Cap^t Crafford in the New Colony you May be AShur^d, I will and am pretty Certian there will be a Number of persons Wanting —

I am Sir with Great Respect your

Most Hum^{ble} Servant

GEO: CROGHAN

¹ An entry of October 21 in Washington's journal of his tour to the Ohio in 1770 records this promise of Colonel Croghan's: "All the land between this Creek & the Monongahela & for 15 Miles back, is claimd by Col^o. Croghan under a purchase from the Indians (and which Sale he says, is confirmd by his Majesty). On this Creek where the Branches thereof interlock with the Waters of Shirtees Creek, there is, according to Col^t Croghan's Acc. a body of fine Rich level Land — this Tract he wants to sell, & offers it a £5 Ster^t p^r hund^d with an exemption of Quitrents for 20 years; after which, to be subject to the payment of 4/2 Ster^t p^r Hun^d, provided he can sell it in 10,000 Acre Lots. Note the unsettled state of the Country renders any purchase dangerous" —

² Measure.

FROM JOHN PARKE CUSTIS.

ANNAPOLIS August 18 1771

MY DEAR SIR

I am exceedingly thankful for your Remarks on my Letters, which I am sorry to say, are but too just. It is however really true, that I was in a hurry, when I wrote; and though undoubtedly I might have found time, I am obliged to own, that I am one of those who put off every thing to the last. And how it should or does happen, I know not, but so it is, that tho I can certainly write as good English, & spell, as well as most people yet when hurried I very seldom do either. I might perhaps account for it ^{in a manner} less reproachfully to Me, but, as you have attributed it to Carelessness alone, & as Appearances are so much against me, I suppose it is so. All therefore that I can now do is to p[r]omise to be more attentive & watchful for the future: your gentle, yet very striking observations shall have their due weight with me; they shall by no means deter me from writing to ^{you} every opportunity & I desire ⁱ you would whenever you find a mistake point it out to me to the end, that by discovering my errors I may endeavour with more success to amend, and at length be capable of holding a Correspondence with you, more agreeable than at present, on account of my incapability. I am glad that Wells dealt with you, which may perhaps be a means of introducing your stock to a better market, & I think I may venture to say, you might were you to come over, find persons who would give you 20/I

am sure they can afford it when they can sell it again at 6^d p^r pound. M^r Boucher presents his Compliments to you & Uncle Bassett & kindly offers to your acceptance a Room in his House, it being almost impossible to get a Room at any of the ordinaries, the Rooms being preengaged to their customers which puts strangers to a very great inconvenience in attending the Races. M^r Boucher begs you would let him know as soon as you are certain whether you are a coming or not, as he expects many acquaintances here at the Races whom he would be glad to serve should you not come.

I am dear Sir your most affectionate
& dutiful Son

JOHN PARKE CUSTIS

FROM MR. JOSEPH VALENTINE.¹

August 24th 1771

SIR/

The last time I Rote to you I acquainted you with the misfortain of our Crops Being drouneded & overdone with the wet and now it is ass Bad the other way we have had no Rain Sence to do any Service to the Corn or tobacco & it Burns up for being overdone with the wet before it Cannot stand the drouth now the Corn Cannot Shoot out nor fill the tobacco the Roots of it was So mutch Sobd [?] and overdone with the Rain before that the drouth Burns it up at

¹ Joseph Valentine was manager or agent of the Custis estate on the York River.

the Bottom & fires at Sutch a Rate that I Can Scarsly tel what to do with it. and more particular on the Leavel Stiff Land wheare the foundation would not let the water Sink from it for Sum time it is not Quite so bad on the light or hilley Land. if providence pleases to Send us a good Rain in a little time I hope it will make a great alteration in our Crops for the Better. Sir the young negro fellow will Shag who formerly lived at old Quarter and ass he was allways Runaway I movd him down heir to Settle theis places and thought he might do better but he Runaway Sum time in June went to Yorke and past for a free man By the name of will Jones but at last was taken up and put in prison and Sent a Letter up to me & I was up at the Quarters in new Kent at the Same time & the over Seer went down for him and Brout him up to the plantation and then will Beat him and got away & he Cant be got Sence I have heard he has Ben Seen on his way Coming up to you and ass their is a good many of his acQuaintence their he may Be harberd and no white person no of it he is advertizd and out Lawd he went away for no provocation in the world but So lazey he will not worke and a greater Roge is not to be foun. no more to add but Remain Sir your most hble ser^t

JOSEPH VALENTINE

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

ANNAPOLIS, Nov^r y^e 19th 1771.

SIR

I have seen your Letter to your Son, & I will own to You, it has given Me a sensible Concern. That my Attention to Him has not lately been so close nor so rigid, as I wish'd, or, as it ought to have been, is a Truth I will not attempt to deny. The Peculiarity of my Circumstances & Situation, as well as of my Temper & Disposition, are All I have to offer in my Excuse, which, however, I do not myself think to be sufficient. I know I might have taught Him more than I have, & sincerely as I wish his Welfare I wish I had ; but I know also, that there are not many Masters under whom He would have learn'd more, than He has done under Me. This Business of Education is a complete & extensive Subject, & a man should be well acquainted with it, before He ventures to pronounce how far another has, or has not, done his Duty. Dr Witherspoon, it seems, said I *ought* to have put Him into Greek. Now, how much Deference soever I owe to his Authority, I will venture to say, that this Declaration, at least, must have been made much at Random. It was not possible He should know what I *ought* to have done, from the few, & the Kind of, Questions He ask'd. To be acquainted with the Greek is thought to sound well, but, to determine upon a Youth's literary Attainments from that Circumstance alone, is not, in my Judgement, a much wiser method than the vulgar Way of enquiring *how far* a Boy has got ; and if He

has run thro' a long Catalogue of Books, to conclude He must be a good Scholar. Had Dr Witherspoon been pleased candidly & fully to have examined this young Gentleman, I shou'd have had nothing to fear. He would not, indeed, have found Him possess'd of much of that dry, useless, & disgusting School-boy kind of Learning^{fit only for a Pedant}; but I trust, He would have found Him not illy accomplished, considering his manners, Temper, & Years, in that liberal, manly, & necessary Knowledge befitting a Gentleman. I ever did hold in Abhorrence that servile System of teaching Boys Words rather than Things; & of getting a parcel of Lumber by Rote, which may be useful & necessary to a School-master, but can never be so to a Man of the World. In these, chiefly, Sir, your Son is deficient: & but that These are thought necessary to make a Shew of, it were not, I think, much to be lamented, should He ever remain so.—I neither have attended, nor dare I promise that I can attend, to Him with the Regularity of a School-master. But, Sir, tho' the little unessential Minutia of School-Learning may have sometimes been neglected, & thro' my Fault; I think I know You to be too observant & too candid a Man to believe that He has been wholly unattended to. His particular Genius & Complexion are not unknown to You; & that They are of a Kind requiring not the least Judgement & Delicacy to manage properly. Pardon Me, Sir, if I assume somewhat a higher Tone in claiming some Merit to myself, in having faithfully done my Duty in this the most arduous, &, doubtless, by far the

most important Part of Education. I have hitherto, I thank God, conducted Him with tolerable Safety, thro' some pretty trying & perilous Scenes; &, remiss as I am, or seem to be, I doubt not, in due Time, to deliver Him up to You a *good* Man, if not a very *learned* one. It will not be thought necessary for Me to enter into a fuller Detail of this Matter: what I should say, I persuade myself, will occur to You.

Annapolis was as unfit a Situation for Me as Him, which I knew not, till Experience told Me. I am now, however, at length, again to return to the Country with a Prospect of fewer Embarrassments on my Hands, than it has been my good Fortune to be without for these five Years. I once was, I think, a good Preceptor: I have never been so, in my own opinion, for the Period just mentioned. If, however, You think proper to try Me a little longer, I think I can & will do better for M^r Custis, than any other Man: if You do not think proper, convinc'd that You will be influenced only by your Regard for Him, most ardently wishing that You may most effectually consult his Interest, I shall never blame You for removing Him—if, indeed, my Blame or Approbation needed to be of Consequence to You. You will do Me the Justice to believe that I can have no other Motive for wishing his Continuance with Me, besides a kind of affectionate Attachment to the Boy, & a piece of Pride, perhaps, it may be, that another should not reap the Merit, if there be any Merit in it, of finishing what I have begun. I am now, I trust, happily set above the Necessity of teaching for a Livelihood; nor will I, as far as I can now Judge,

ever take Charge of another Youth besides the Three now with Me. For the last Year, I have long ago mentioned it to my Friends, I never intended charging either Custis, or the other Two, any Thing for Education; & this only from what I thought a Consciousness that I ^{had not} deserved it. [mutilated] he continues with Me, & I do my Duty as I now intend (& if I do [mutilated] be the first to tell You of it) I will charge Him, at the least, four or five Times as much as I have ever yet done.

If, after all, You resolve on removing Him, all I have to add is a Request, that it may not be to Princeton. Pay Me the Complim^t of believing that I know something of these Matters: and there is not any Thing I am more convinced of, than that your own College is a better one — better in every Respect. You live contiguous to it, & hear every objecⁿ to it, often magnify'd beyond the Truth: & were this the Case wth Respect to the Jerseys, I am mistaken, if You would hear less there. If, however, the Objections to Williamsburg be insuperable, I wou'd then recommend New-York: it is but a Step farther, & for obvious Reasons, infinitely deserves the Preference.¹

I am, Sir, y^r most obed^t & very Hble Serv^t

JONA^N BOUCHER

¹ It is not difficult to imagine why so ardent a Loyalist as Dr. Boucher objected to the staunch patriotism of Princeton.

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

KING W^m COUNTY Dec^r 9th 1771.

SIR

Col^o Carter Braxton & M^r Phil. Claiborne inform'd me some time ago that you Immagined you should be in want of a Man to overlook your Business, & as M^r Valentine is now Dead I shall be glad, to serve you, & will wait on you immediately well recomened, provied you will let me know by the Bearer leaving a letter at King W^m Court House from you to inform me if you should be in want or not. I am Sir.

Y^r mo : ob^t Serv^t

JAMES HILL —

FROM COLONEL BERNARD MOORE.

DEAR SIR

As you have had the misfortune to lose your Agent M^r Joseph Valentine, give me leave to recommend M^r John Pendleton to your favour; I know him to be an Honest, industrious, Sober Man, And a good planter and I think him as capable of undertaking such a trust as any one in the Colony, and shall be glad to hear he meets with your approbation. I am sincerely

Dear Sir

Your Affectionate

BER^d MOORE

11th Dec^r 1771

FROM EDMUND PENDLETON, ESQ.

D^R SIR

My friend Col^o Moore has just informed me of the death of M^r Valentine, & sent a L^re to you, recommending my brother as a proper person to succeed him in the Stewardship of M^r Custis's Estate. I am not a competent Judge, nor am I inclined to say much in recommendation of my brother. All I can say ^{is} he has been always esteemed an Industrious good planter, I know & will become bound for his Integrity, & while he had the care of the late Speaker's Estate, he gave Gen^l Satisfaction. You are a good Judge your self & will no doubt make proper Enquiry, & all I presume to add is, that if you find it consistent wth the young Gentleman's Interest to employ him, your doing so will oblige

Sir

Y^r mo. hble Serv^tEDM^D PENDLETONDec^r 13. 1771.

 FROM MR. JOHN PENDLETON.
FREDERICKSBURG, Dec^r 15. 1771.

DEAR SIR,

You'll Receive with this: a Letter from Col^o Bern^d Moore, & one from my Broth Edm^d Pendleton: the latter informs me that the late Steward for Col^o Custis's Estate, is Dead; & Advis'd me to Apply to you for the Business — I came thus far, in hopes I

should meet you, on y^r Way to the Court of Oyer;
but as y^e are not come, I suppose you do not intend
there —

The Business I am now Engag^d in, prevents my
coming up to y^r House; but if you are willing to
Employ^{me} in that Estate; be pleas'd to Signifie it, in
a Line by the Post to my Bro^r Edm^d and I will go
to any place you shall direct—and Doubt^{not} I
[will] discharge that trust to my Credit, & your Sat-
isfaction

and am

S^r

y^r m^o Obed^t hble Serv^t

JOHN PENDLETON

FROM THOMAS ADDENBROOKE, ESQ.¹

SIR/

I have been Informd by My Mother and by some
papers in my Custody find that my Grandfathers
Mother a young Widdow her name Broadhurst, Mar-
ried a Gentleman Called Collonel Washington of
Virginia,² one of your Ancestors, if so I have the
Honour of being a relation to you, which makes me

¹ Burke's *Landed Gentry* mentions a Thomas Addenbrooke being appointed one of the governors of King Edward's school, Stourbridge, by the charter of 1752.

² Tyler, in the *William and Mary Quarterly*, says: "The will of Col. John Washington, the immigrant, speaks of a second wife; but it has been supposed that this wife (name unknown) preceded the marriage to Anne Pope. I am satisfied that the first wife of Colonel Washington was Anne Pope, and that the second wife was Anne, widow of Walter Brodhurst."

Walter Brodhurst, who came to Virginia about the same time as Dr. Gerrard, was the son of William Brodhurst, of Lilleshall, Shropshire County, England.

take the Liberty to Trouble you With an Enquiry after an Estate which belonged to my Grandfather, and an Estate left my Mother and her Sisters by their Unkle Gerrard Broadhurst. After the Death of my Grandfather the Daughters sent one Person to Virginia to Manage their Affairs and imprudently Trusted him with their Writeings, he for some Years made them regular remittances Afterwards took no Notice of their Affairs, by What I can learn kept possession as his Own, as the Estate I believe Joyns to yours shall take it as the Greatest favour you Woud inform me of the Situation of the Estate and Persons heirs, and if you think the Estate is recoverable I am the only representative of the Family of Broadhurst, My Grandfather,¹ left Virginia at the Age of 9 Years to take Possession of some Effects left him by an Unkle in Shropshire in England — as I am Unacquainted with any body in Virginia beg you will Excuse the Trouble I give you in this Affair, the favour of an Answer to this will be gratefully Acknowledged

by Sir Your Most Obedient Humble
Serv^t To Com^d

THO^s. ADDENBROOKE

at COALBROOKDALE near Shiffnall
in Shropshire
England —
16th December 1771

¹ Walter Brodhurst, son of Walter and Anne Brodhurst.

FROM BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE, ESQ.¹

DEAR SIR

As the death of M^r Valentine makes it necessary for you to employ a new Steward for your Business below, it is probable that many Persons will apply for the Place, and I have no doubt of your readily choosing a good one, which may make any information from me on that subject very unnecessary, Yet as the fullest information & the greatest choice can do no harm, I cannot refuse the request of M^r John Hopkins, to apply to you on his behalf, not only as I think him, in every respect, very well qualified to succeed M^r Valentine, but as I have a great inclination to oblige & serve him, as far as lies in my Power, I must therefore beg leave to inform you that during the course of many years acquaintance, & large dealings, I have always found him a Gentleman of uprightness & integrity, I have been well acquainted with many of his transactions in business of great consequence, and have found him remarkable for his industry, activity & prudence, I likewise know him to be very capable of Accounts, & of a good temper & behavior, I may not be a good Judge of Plantation Affairs, & therefore it would not be doing Justice to M^r Hopkins to say only that it is my Opinion he understands them very well, but I must further

¹ Judge Dandridge, brother of Martha Washington, and son of John and Frances (Jones) Dandridge, was born December 25, 1737, and married Mary, daughter of Julius King Burbidge. He was a member of the Virginia Convention of 1776, also member of the Privy Council, and Judge of the General Court. The *Virginia Gazette* records the death (April 18, 1785) of the "Hon. Bartholomew Dandridge of New Kent, Judge of the General Court."

say that this is likewise the Opinion of those of his Neighbourhood, whose Judgm^t are to be depended on, and that his Father under whom he was brought up was reckoned a good Planter, & for many Years an Inspector, I likewise know that this has always been a part of his Employment & that he cannot be at a loss for want of Experience, M^r Hopkins has a small independant Fortune of his own, on which he can live comfortably, but for the advantage of his Family is willing to improve it in this way, I cannot help wishing him Success, which I would by no means do, if I had not the best reasons to believe he will deserve it, and if you have no recommendation that you think you can better depend on, or no better opportunity of obliging your other Friends on this Occasion, I should esteem it a great Favor if you would prefer M^r Hopkins, which your kindness on all other Occasions leaves me no room to doubt of, —

I write to my Sister by this Opportunity and will trouble you no further than to assure you that I am sincerely

Dear Sir

Your very affect. & obliged hble Serv^t

B DANDRIDGE

NEW KENT

Dec^r 18. 1771.

FROM MR. WILLIAM ARMISTEAD.¹

NEWKENT COUNTY, Dec: 21. 1771.

SIR

At the request of M^r James Hockaday, am to Signifye to you, my knowledge & Opinion of him; he has ever been an inhabitant of this County, beleive him to be a very Honest man, know him to be very Sober, & Well qualified to keep Acco^{ts} & his general Character is that of being Very Industrious also — he seems desirous of Succeeding M^r Valentine in your imploy. if ^{he} shou'd beleive 'twou'd give general Satisfaction to his Friends, as well as answer every purpose you wou'd expect by employing him —

I am,

Sir,

Your Mo, Obedient Serv^t

WILLIAM ARMISTEAD

FROM MR. BURBIDGE.²

SIR,

M^r James Hockaday is desirous of succeeding the late M^r Valentine in that Stewardship, & has apply'd

¹ William Armistead, son of Colonel John Armistead, of New Kent, was major in 1772 and 1775, and a vestryman of Blissland Parish. He married Mary, "widow of Baker, who kept ordinary at the Brick House for Bassett, the niece of James Nicholas, who left her £500 in event of the death of Abraham Nicholas, son of his brother Abraham Nicholas, also a specific legacy of £1,000." (Letter of William Nelson, 1767. See the Nelson *Letter-Book* at Episcopal Seminary.) He had issue, an only daughter, Susanna, who married first William Dandridge, son of Bartholomew Dandridge, the brother of Mrs. Washington, and second, about 1805, David Dorrington. Major William Armistead died before 1784. — TYLER.

² Probably Julius King Burbidge, father-in-law of Bartholomew Dandridge.

to me to recommend him to you as a fitt Person. I believe him to be a very honest, sober diligent Man, and as far as I know well quallify'd for the Business.

Cap: Jn: Hopkins apply'd to me some Time ago for the same Thing, and I give the same Character of Him.

I am, Y: ~~hble~~ Serv:

J BURBIDGE

December 21. 1771.

FROM BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR/

M: James Hockaday of this County informs me that he intends to apply to you to succeed M: Valentine in the Management of your Estate below, and notwithstanding my warm recommendation of M: John Hopkins who first applied to me, I think it my duty, in Justice to M: Hockaday, at his request, to inform you, that I have always been acquainted with him from my Infancy, & that his Character for Sobriety Integrity & Industry has been one of the best of my Acquaintance, he has been used to keeping Accounts which he has been allowed to understand very well, I cannot say I am acquainted with his management of Plantation Affairs, but am convinced that a Person of his Experience and good Understanding cannot be at a loss in that; I must further beg leave to recommend him to you as a Person who

I believe will suit very well the Station he applies for, & one whom I should be glad to oblige, I am

D^r Sir Your affect. & obed^t Serv^t

B DANDRIDGE

NEW KENT

Dec^r 21th 1771.

FROM MR. WILLIAM DANDRIDGE.¹

SIR/

M^r James Hill has Liv'd within a few Miles of me for some Years, He bears a General good Character, and is much esteemd by his Neighbours;

From the Dealings we have had, believe him Strictly Honest. I have heard Col^o Braxton and others mention him as a good Manager of Plantation Business, but am unacquainted with that part of his Conduct, as I never was on his Land. have understood he is possessd of a pritty Estate and improves it fast which is a Surcumstance much in his favour; please to make my Complym^{ts} Acceptable to y^r Lady & Family I am Sir

y^r much Oblig'd

Hble Servant

K^o W^o Co^o

Decb^r 21th 1771.

W DANDRIDGE

¹ Son of Colonel William Dandridge, of "Elsing Green," King William County; married Agnes, daughter of Colonel Francis West. William Dandridge was a first cousin of Martha Washington.

FROM BURWELL BASSETT, ESQ.¹

DEAR SIR

ELTHAM 21 Dec^r 1771

Your favour of the 15 Ins^t I receive in Wmsburg yesterday, As to the Candidates for Valentine Place Graves you know as much of as I do & Hill I know nothing of But what I heard M^r Claiborne say, There has been a great many people apply'd to me to recommend them, But as I new^{nothing} of them but by the recommendation they brought with them from Gentlemen I advise them to apply to you that you was well acquainted with The Gentleman that recommended them &, that I could^{say} nothing more to them But as I find none of these has been with you I will just mention a few of them M^r Joseph Eggleston of James City recommended by M^r Ralph Wormly Seⁿ
of James City & M^r John Cooke Booth^{of James City} recommended by M^r John Sherman & M^r Nicholas, M^r Pendleton informed me that Col^o B Moore & himself had recommended his Brother John Pendleton, I will inquire particularly into James Hill character & give you the best information I can get, I went to the Plantation where Valentine Died & found that he had put his Corn in the Open Tob^o Houses & that it laid at the mercy of every person that was rogue Enough to take the advantage of it, I sent for the Overseer from the Marsh Quarter & order him to have^{the} houses mended up & Locks put on the doors, which he informd me

¹ Hon. Burwell Bassett, of Eltham, New Kent County, born in 1734; married Anna Maria Dandridge, sister of Martha Washington. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1764 until the Revolution.

to day was done I also made him take a perticular Account of all the Negroes & Stocks of all sorts that are at the plantations about Wmsburg & bring it to me, which I intended to inclos'd to you but find it will make my letter two large so shall keep them till I have ^{the} pleasure of seeing you, If there is any thing I can do for you before you fix on a manager please to command me. —

The Assembly is to meet the six of February as you will see by the Papers when we hope to have the pleasure of yours & M^r Washingtons Company I do assure ^{you} _Λ nothing would ^{give} _Λ me so much pleasure as to be able to come to M Vernon, But I am so unwell that I must defer that pleasure till the Spring of the year when I hope I shall be able to come without endangering my health, M^r Bassett and the little ones are pretty well and join me in Love & best Wishes to the family at M Vernon I am

D^r Sir

Y^r Most Affect & obt Serv^t

BUR^L BASSETT

FROM BURWELL BASSETT, ESQ.

DEAR SIR

Just as I had finish'd my Letter I was apply'd to by M^r James Hockaday who is desirous of geting into Business, all that I can say of him is that he is a very Honest industrious Man and understand Acco^t pretty well, But as he was never in Business and only look after a little Plantation of his own

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whether he is capable of undertaking the Business
he now aply for I cannot tell I am

D^r S^r

Y^r Affnate Hble Serv^t

BUR^L BASSETT

21 Dec^r 1771

FROM MR. JOSEPH DAVENPORT.

S^r

in Compliance to your General Letter I have Sent
you an Exact List of the Negroes Stock of Cattle &c
on this plantation but as you may not think that I
did not pay the Regard due to your Letter to me
before on that Subject; I assure you that this is the
third List I have made out and Sent to you As to
the Duty of an Overseer I Shall as Strictly Adhere
to as if there was a Cheif. but there is 26 Hogs to
Spare from the place w^{ch} M^r Rob^t Ruffin informs
me that he had engaged of of M^r Valentine be fore
his death, they are not Extrordinary fat but have got
to Eating^{dirt} at Such a rate they do not mend but
Seems to be Eating Corn in waste — now as you have
Wrote and did not mention what Should be done
with the pork I am doubtful whether I ought to
deliver it or no however if I do not hear from you in
ten days I shall Venture to deliver it to M^r Ruffin or
they will destroy More Corn then the pork will be
worth — —

I'm S^r y^r Very Humble Ser^t Jos DAVENPORT

FROM JOSEPH DAVENPORT.

CLAIBORNES Dec: 23^d 1771

A LIST OF COL^o GEORGE WASHINGTONS NEGROES, CATTLE &^o —

Black Cattle			Hogs	Negroes					
N ^o	Sex	years old	28 up fattening 10 Breeding	Names	Age	Size	Names	Age	Size
16	Oxen		10 Sows	Stephen	55		Sarah	60	
25	Stears	4 & Upw ^d	11 Spaid D ^o	Pieras	57		Moll	56	
21	D ^o	2 & 3	1 year old	Solomon	36		Rachel	36	
46	Cows	4 & Upw ^d	17 Barrows 1	David	36		Patt	38	
12	Cows	2 & 3	D ^o D ^o	George	21		Craijo	36	
			12 Shoats	Mingo Will	19		Kitt	36	
			2 Bores	Jack	17		Hannah	22	
6	Males	1	3 plough	Cully	16		Milly	15	4-9
			Horses	L. ¹ Davie	14	5	Jane	13	5-
7	feemales	1	Viz Dobing &	L. Will	12	4-8	Nane	11	4 1/2
			Shirding	Joe	11	4-2	Connella	9	4-4
136	Total		Which I	L. Guy	8	4	Dinah	11	4-1
			brought down	Bob	2 1/2		Sal	8	3-9
			when I came to	Peter	1 1/2		Arbah	7	3-4
			the place.	Stephen	1		Molly	5	3-3
			a small Bay	Nait	2		Eve	5	3
27	Old	Ewes	Horse which	Old Guy	58		Franky	-	Dead
6	Lamb	s D ^o	was at the						
8	old W	ethers	place when I						
2	Lamb	s D ^o	came to it now						
2	Ram	s	about 12 years						
			old.						
45	total								

¹ little.

FROM COLONEL BERNARD MOORE.

DEAR SIR

I find Mr James Hill has applyed to you for your business below, and that you are desirous of having my opinion of him; I know him to be a very Sober, Honest, industrious Man, and a very good Planter, & I make no doubt but he will answer your desires. I am sincerely

Dear Sir

Your Affectionate

BER^d MOORE

24th Dec: 1771

FROM BURWELL BASSETT, ESQ.

ELTHAM 25 December 1771

DEAR SIR

Not knowing of the return of this messenger I wrote you by the last post to which I now refer you, I have meet with noBody yet to enquire into Hill Character But will make it my Business next weak to go to king Wm & when I am informd will let you know by the next Post, In my last I inclos'd you two letters recommending M^r James Hockaday one from M^r Burbidge the other from M^r Bat Dandridge, Hockaday apply'd to me I know him to be Sober Honest & industrious & understand Acco^t pretty well, But as he has never been in any Business accept looking after a small pla[n]tation of his own I thought it right to mention it, & ~~leave~~: The Assembly meet the six of Febry when I hope to have ^{the} pleasure of yours & M^{rs} Washington Company at Eltham, If there is any thing that I can do for you before you fix on a manager please to command me, Inclos'd you'll receive and Acco^t of the Negroes & Stocks of all sorts at ^{the} plantations below which I made the overseer take and bring to me —

Please to make my Love & best Complements acceptable at M Vernon I am

D^r S^rYour Mo: Affect & Obt Serv^tBUR^L BASSETT

FROM ROBERT H. HARRISON, ESQ.

ALEXANDRIA Jan'y 10. 1772

SIR

I do not think you would be safe in purchasing the land in dispute between Messrs West and Posey. that is that you would be liable to the penalties of the Stat 32 H 8ch 9 which I have transcribed & herewith send you for your perusal¹ — It does not appear by this Stat that Bonds &c respecting Sales of pretended Titles are void; It only subjects the purchaser to a forfeiture of ^{the} Value of the Land, that is the bona fide price paid; as It does the Vendor ^{to that of the Sum received}; Nor does ^{It} avoid a Conveyance — But should you & Mr. West incline to conclude a Bargain, risking a prosecution On this stat, the best way would be to have Two Deeds; One for the Land to which he is Indisputably Intitled

¹ By 32 H 8ch 9 It's enacted

That no person shall from thenceforth, bargain, buy "or sell, or by any ways or means, Obtain, get or have any pretended rights, or titles, "or take, promise, grant, or Covenant to have any right, or title of any person, in or "to any Lands (Except such person which shall so bargain, sell, give, grant, covenant "or promise the same, their antecessors or they by whom he claims the same, have been "in possession of the same, or the Reversion or Remainder thereof, or taken the Rents "or profits thereof, for one Year next before the said bargain, Covenant, Grant, or "promise made) upon pain that he that shall make such bargain, Sale, promise, Cove- "nant or Grant, to forfeit the whole value of the Land, bargained, Sold, promised, "Covenanted or Granted, contrary to the said Act: And the Buyer or Taker thereof "knowing the same, to forfeit the Value of the Land, by him bought or Taken; the "one Moiety of the Value to go to the King the other to him who will sue for the "same.

And for the due Execution of the s^d Act, the Justices of Assize within England & "elsewhere within the Kings Dominions shall in every County, twice a year, cause open "proclamation to be made of the same, to the Intent that no manner of persons, hear- "ing the same, should be Ignorant or Miscognizant of the Dangers & penalties, "therein contained and specified.

Provided, that no person offend^t against the same shall be Subject to the Penalties "thereof, Unless Sued within 1 Year after the Offence Committed.

recit^s the Considn paid for that & a separate one for that in dispute.

I think that the Court will not ~~Allow~~ make a Restoration in the decree as to Barry's Crop, as he might by his Answer to the Bill (had It been filed at the Court after the Bill was brought) have had his part of the Land ascertained by a Division and then only Cultivated his own — proof of his avowed design of keeping you out of your part, will do no harm, probably be of Service — I shall endeavour to get It tried as soon as possible & If I can get the division to be made upon a day not Interfering with my Attendance at some of *my Courts*, will most certainly be present¹ —

I shall apply to the Doctor² next Prince William Court for payment tho shall not expect It — If he shall refuse I think It will be Advisable to Waite & arrest him here.

I observe your kind postscript but as my being appointed to the Office depends upon M^r Graysons³ leaving the Court & his leaving the Court (probably) upon his being a Representative, I am afraid that the Office is remote — and as Mr Randolp⁴ has given

¹ Entries in Washington's *Ledger*.

1772

Aug. 20. By Cash p^d M^r Harrison Services in my Suit against } 1 . 16
Jn^t Barry & Son }

1773

Jan. 1 To 1 half of the Cost in obtaining a Divi^s of Wades } D^r
Land — p^d Decree of Fairfax Court — See Clerks }
Notes & c^t viz you paying 114 lbs of Tob^o & G. W. } 10 . 3
279 y^t deff^t [deficiency] there fore exclusive of }
Surveyors Fees being 82½ lbs of Tob^o a 12/6 }

² Dr. William Savage.

³ Hon William Grayson afterwards U. S. Senator.

⁴ Peyton Randolph.

his promise I imagine that another Application will not be necessary, however if you think It necessary you will please to do It — I heartily wish you a much better journey to the Capitol than I think you will have ¹

And am sir

with great respect

PS

Y^r much obliged

As to the matter of Interest Hble Servt

I dont know that the Court ROBT H: HARRISON

can in the present case make

Barry pay It but I will Consider of It

¹ Extract from Washington's *Journal* for 1772.

Feb. 25. Set off for Williamsburg but not being able to cross Occatinck (which was much Swelled by the late Rains) I was obliged to return home again —

26. Sett off again and reached Colchester by nine Oclock where I was detaind all day by high winds & low tide —

27. Crossd early & breakfasted at Dumfries — got to Fredricksburg in the afternoon & lodgd at Col^l Lewis's

28 Stayd all day in Town with my brother John & o^a dined at Col^l Lewis's & spent y^e Evening at Cap^t Weedon's

29 Prosecuted my journey — dined at Caroline C['] House & lodged at Todds Bridge.

Mar. 1. Reachd Col^l Bassetts from Todds Bridge by 12 Oclock — stayd there the remainder of the day. —

2 Set out for Williamsburg and got in about 12 Oclock — dined at the Speakers and supd at the Treasurers

The following items from Washington's *Ledger* for 1772 denote the cost attendant upon a journey from Mount Vernon to Williamsburg.

Feb^r 26 By Expences at Colchester

By Ditto at Dumfries

27 By Expences at Fredericksburg

29 By Exp^s at Caroline C['] House

March 1 By Ditto at Todds Bridge

By Ferriage at Ruffins

17	10
3	-
8	9
4	3
6	7
3	-

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

DEAR SIR

I now take the Liberty of inclosing to You M^r Custis's Account for the Year & half that He has spent in Maryland. Undoubtedly, it makes a formidable Appearance, and, at first View, may go nigh to Scare You: I cannot, however, believe, that, when You come to descend to Particulars, You will think it very extravagant, unless it be in the Article of Clothes, which He got by your Permission. I should, indeed, except out of this Remark, the Charge of the Man, at whose House We boarded; the highest & most unreasonable, I ever paid in my Life. I am firmly persuaded, I never eat as many Dinners with Him, as He has charged Me pounds; and yet no Deduction could I obtain for two or three Months of the Time, that I was in Virginia, & nearly as much that M^r Custis was. You will believe, that I disputed it as long as I could, but Custom was against Me, & so, what could I do? There are, perhaps, some other Articles, a little in the Annapolitan Stile of charging: All I can say, is, that I have been as careful of his Interest, as my own; & if, after all, his Bill be a very extravagant ~~one~~ (for I have, of late, been so used to such, that I have almost Forgot what is a reasonable one) You will do Me the Justice to own, it is not From any Profits that have accrued to Me. As Many of these Bills are undischarged, & totally out of my Power to discharge, an Attention to his Credit, as well as my own, obliges Me to remind You, that, unless it should happen to be inconvenient to You,

I shou'd be much pleas'd to have it in my Power immediately to pay Them off. For what is properly owing to myself, it will be particularly agreeable to Me to receive a Bill of Exch^a on London, as I just about owe as much Money there, as I believe This will amount to. The State of Exch^a here seems not to be nearly so determinate & fix'd as it is in Virginia: I enquir'd in Annapolis, last Week, solely for the Purpose of directing You in this Business; & tho' I met with different Informations, the most general Account was, that They did Business there at 55, which, You will observe, I endeavour'd to attend to, in my Acc^t, in reduc^t Virg^a into Maryland Money, which, yet, after all, may not be right. The Money He yet owes, charged in my Acc^t, You will see, is about £76; the Rest I wish You to give Me a Bill for, which I reckon will be somewhat more than £50 Sterling. I fear, I am not a very exact Accountant, not having been much used to such Business; You will therefore do well not to rely altogether on my Calculations, without examining them, I trust, however, there are not any very material Errors. — I must not forget to let You know, that He just now tells Me he owes a Silversmith an Acc^t, which, the Man being out of the Way, I could not get in, which He supposes may be 4 or £5, & some other little scattering small Debts amounting He fancies, to 30/. or 40/. — If not disagreeable to You, I shou'd be glad these Acc^t c^d be return'd, as I also am interested in some of Them. I have some others, not sent, in which Things that He had are charged to Me, & which has cost Me no little Trouble to separate, &

perhaps, after all my Pains, They are not quite exact. If it be necessary You shou'd have These also, I will send Them. Some I doubt, I have lost; amongst which are L'Argeau's & D^r Stevenson, if perchance I have not already transmitted Them to You. No Charge is made for his Education; and This not only because I was uneasy to see his Bill already run so very high, but also, because, as I have before intimated to You, my Attention to Him has not been so regular & constant, as that I could conscientiously make a Charge of it. For the coming Year, however, I purpose to charge Him ten, if not twenty Guineas; which lest You should consider as a Finesse, to make the Amends for my Loss of the last Year, I mentioned to You, that I might at the same Time inform You, M^r Calvert had agreed to give Me that Sum for his Son, but which, for the same Reason, I have not yet charged Him. — I know full well your Sentiments of my Conduct last Year, & I honour You for Them: It is a Subject I love not to think on, still less to speak or write about. Could I have foreseen how I shou'd live in Annap^s, He never shou'd have gone there with Me: nor shou'd He have continued, but that I thought every Day, I shou'd certainly alter Things, & live to Myself. The Truth is, with many Demerits & Imperfections, I still love the Lad, & I cou'd not find in my Heart to part with Him, without an absolute Necessity. Thank God, it is now over; & tho', with my Acquaintances & Connexions, I never can be a very diligent Preceptor, yet I doubt not soon to make Amends For all that is past. I have much Pleasure in informing You,

that We All of Us seem perfectly happy in our new Situation: it is quiet & comfortable, & I Fondly hope, healthy. *A cruel Something*, as Prior says, is, however, still wanting — this House is none of mine: but, as I am now resolving in good Earnest to become Frugal, I must comfort Myself with the Hope, that I soon shall be in a Capacity to get One of my own.

Lord Baltimore is certainly dead. All that has hitherto been talk'd about his Will, is mere, random Guess-work. There are, however, some pretty good Reasons to believe, that the Proprietaryship of this Province, & the most considerable Part of his immense Property in the Funds, are left to the Family of our Friend, Gov^r Eden. The Will, suppos'd to be his last, was in Naples where He dy'd. Sept^r 4th, after a Fever of three Days, & not transmitted to England, when the only L^d the Gov^r has yet rec'd from his L^dship's Agent on this Subject, came away. Doubtless, this Event will give Birth to many little Revolutions, of Consequence to Us here. Most People I converse with seem anxious to have it confirm'd, that M^r Eden is Proprietor: Beyond all Question, it is the happiest Thing that can possibly befall the Province.

I enclose You some Proposals for a New Map of the Back parts of America. It was put into my Hands by a Friend from Philad^a with a Request that I wou'd transmit it to You. Possibly you know this [mutilated] Hutchins, & can guess whether He is likely to play *Henry* with You. If I thought there was any Chance of its being well executed, I shou'd like to subscribe. Shou'd it fall in your Way to procure

Him any Encouragement You will hand his Paper about; & if You return it to Me, I will take Care to have it properly transmitted to the Author.

I beg my most respectful Comp^d to M^r Washington, & Miss Custis, & am, D^r Sir,

Y^r most obed^t & very Hble serv^t

JONA^N BOUCHER

PRINCE GEORGE'S

15th Jan^y 1772.

FROM MR. HARRY PIPER.

ALEXANDRIA, Feb^y 15. 1772

D^R SIR,

It was rather late in the day when your Man handed me your favor of the 10th Inst: therefore did not care to detain him to acknowledge the receipt of your Bill for £53. Sterling for the use of M^r Savage which I shall take care to send to M^r Dixon by the first Opp^y, & dare say he will remit her the value immediately, shall at the same time send your Letter of advice to M^r Gildart — I hope you have fully explained to M^r Savage your late transaction with regard to her Annuity — to be sure Doct^r Savage can have no objections to pay you for the future, so that you may have this Money replaced again — I shall take care to see her Power of Attorney to M^r Montgomerie tho I fear it is as the Doctor says — I wish you health to prosecute your journey, as I fear it will be a very disagreeable one — & am. D^r Sir,

Y^r &c

HARRY PIPER

FROM THE REV. JONATHAN BOUCHER.

Feb^y 21st 1772.

DEAR SIR

I congratulate You, & the World with Us, on our Restoration to a temperate Zone: for, in Truth, We have had a kind of a Greenland Winter. And, for my own Part, I own to You, I now have a much stronger Idea of the Nature of a Winter pass'd in a Cave, than I could ever have learn'd from Books alone. I sometimes almost regretted, We could not become quite torpid, & sleep out the whole dreary Season, as snakes & some other Animals are said to do: or that, as, like Bears, we were shut up in our Dens, We could not, like Them also, live without Fire, & by sucking our Paws: for I had some Cause to imagine, if the Weather had held much longer, We should have had some Temptation to try.

To What I have heretofore said on the Subject of these Accounts, I have little now to add; unless, I should beg leave to suggest to You, by way of diminishing in some sort their enormous Amount, that they take in a Period^{of} Eighteen Months, at the least — & that They are in a Currency so much worse than yours. Comparing Him with the Youths around Him, He really seem'd frugal; &, as far as I knew, never indulged in any expence that I could have suppos'd You would have had him restrain'd in. I knew You expected Him to make such an Appearance as He did, & keep such Company as He did: I knew not of the twenty pounds, & am indeed somewhat surpriz'd at it: how it has been spent I know

not. I have just enquir'd of Him, & can only hear that He bought Oranges & Pine-Apples &c, & gave away a Ticket or two. But, as This 'is by no means a satisfactory Acc't, I have ordered Him to write to You about it; & if He cannot account for it, at least to apologise to You for his Remissness. I hope it was rather trifled & fooled away, than spent in a more blameable manner, which I think could hardly have been without my Knowledge. And, a very few venial Peccadillos excepted, I have little of this Sort to charge Him with. — The boarding a Person is not, I should imagine, to be considered as finding Him just such a Quantity of Provisions &c. In Frazier's Case, it was his Livelihood, & a handsome one it is to Him. He considers his House-Rent, & all his own Attendance, Servants, & a long et cetera. My Charge was govern'd by His, which, knowing my Board to be so much better, I thought a sufficient Warrant for Me. I never aim'd to make a Living by taking Boarders: in Virginia, I am persuaded I lost by it. You will, however, be so good as consider, that no Man can, even with the most Easy & manageable Boarder, be quite so Easy in his Family, as without Them — & something shou'd be allow'd for the Inconvenience He puts himself to. I do, however, agree with You that £25 a year for a Boy in a Kitchen, is an extravagant Charge: but, I suppose, it is considered as making some amends for other Disadvantages — at least, this was the Apology Frazier made to Me.

I observe the Errors You have pointed out: in answer to which, all I can say is, that I well know I

paid the Money to the Man, at the Time I have charged it; & This I am the surer of, as M^r Custis also remembers it. Galloway was represented to Me as a Man who had once seen better days, & deserving of Compassion. He was exceedingly needy, & constantly sending to Me for Money. How it has happened that He charged these Sums over again, & that I overlook'd Them, I cannot account for, till I see M^r Jacques, who was so obliging as to take the trouble of settling with Him for Me. I will, however, have it rectify'd, & accordingly, I have already given You Credit for it in my Book.

I find much Trouble & Vexation in this said Country about this Article of Exchange; &, hitherto, have generally lost by it. They seem to have no standard, no fixed Regulation, as with You. I enquir'd of some of the principal Annap^o & Baltimore Merch^{ts} before I wrote to You; but, I will enquire again; & if Bills either have been, or shall be, Either in this or the next Month sold at 60 ⁹/₁₀ C^t, I will allow it. Some Allowances Y [mutilated] is to be made for the Medium thro' which are generally receiv [mutilated] gence of this Sort: there are always a few degrees difference betwe [mutilated] buyer & a seller.

I fear, it will be impracticable to lay in Provender &c for [mutilated] Horses in this Neighbourhood; as I can hire but one Stable, & that a most wretched one. This Article, however, cannot possibly hereafter be so heavy a one as it has been — nor, indeed, I hope, any other.

L^d B: is certainly dead; but I believe it is still unknown [mutilated] Will is. It had not been sent to

Engl^d from Naples where He dy [mutilated] the last Letters I saw or heard of came away. Every Thing, howev [mutilated] known, is in favour of Gov^r Eden. At all Events, I guess, He [mutilated] have a fight for it: & I join with You in wishing that every [mutilated] may be as much to his Advantage, as I shoud fancy it is, that He [mutilated] possession. The chief Difficulty seems to be, whether the Proprietary [mutilated] or was not Entail'd & so whether willable or not. If this Doubt [mutilated] be answer'd in the Affirmative, I believe M^r Eden has little [mutilated] being Proprietor. — I have not seen Him this month, or upwards [mutilated] of trying to get thither next week, when I shall not fail to remem [mutilated] to Him. — Our Assembly, I hear, on Acc^t of this desperate [mutilated] is prorogued till late in March. — Shou'd I hear any thing that I can [mutilated] it wou'd be agreeable to You to hear of, I will write to You in Wmsburg I wish You a pleasant & agreeable sojournment.

I am, most truly, D^r Sir Y^r &c JONA^N [mutilated]

I send back the acc^t — as I can do without them — & tho' I wish'd to [mutilated] had Rec^t under Them, yet, I fancy, my general Rec^t may do.

Be so good as to take the trouble of two or three L^r to drop in your way down.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

March the 5th 1772.

DR SIR

At length I have seen an Abstract of the Will of The Lord Baltimore : more absurd, & more vexing than You will easily believe. It appears to have been made Fifteen months before his Death, in Venice, & is as follows

To M^r Browning (Sister of M^r Eden) & M^r Eden, each — £10,000 on condition, that They sign a Release to all Claim on the Province.

To Rob^t Eden, Rob^t Morris (a busy Lawyer, & lately Secretary to the Society of the Bill of Rights) Hugh Hammersly (lately L. B.—'s Steward or Agent in England) Rich^d Prevost¹ (his Attorney, & of a good Character) Esq^r his Ex^{ra}, on Condition They prove the Will within twelve months, Each — £1500

To Rob^t Eden one hundred pounds per annum.

To Henry Harford (a nat^l Son, ab^t 13 years of age) the Province Rem^t to Frances Harford² — Rem^t to M^r Eden.

To Henry Harford — £30,000

Rem^t to Frances Harford — Rem^t to M^r Eden

To Frances Harford £30,000. Rem^t to Henry Harford — Rem^t to M^r Eden.

To M^r Hales (a Woman whom He has been dragging round Europe, &, for a Lady of Easy Virtue, of good Character) £1000.

To two Miss Hales s (his Daughters by the above M^r Hales) each £2000.

Hen : & Frances Harford residuary Legatees.

I think I remember nothing more ; &, if I mistake not, You will think This quite enough. Two Wills that He had left in England, in both of which I

¹ Scharf, quoting Mr. Charles Browning, gives this name as Peter Prevost.

² Sister of Henry.

believe He had 'left the Province, & the Bulk of his Fortune, amounting, it is said, to more than £100,000, [to M^{rs} Eden?] were remanded & destroy'd: tho' there has not been known any Coolness between Them, but, on the contrary, an increasing affection, at least, in professions. I am but little able to inform You what Steps the Governor intends to take, tho I happened to be with Him, when He received the Will: only that He is resolved to try to overset it, & with good Hopes of Success. They suppose the Province to be of that kind of Property which is not deviseable, contrary to the opinions espoused some time ago, when there was no doubt but the Will was in Favor of M^{rs} Eden, or her Family; I find Precedents in the Case of the Duke of Athol with respect to the Isle of Man.¹ In Case of Success, then, You see, the two Sisters will be Coheiresses, & of Consequence, M^{rs} Eden come in but for half: which however, will be no contemptible Acquisition. You will readily believe how heartily I join with You in wishing Success to this only Reputable Branch of a Family once so respectable: but, in Truth, their prospects seem sadly overcast; &, at least, they have a World of Difficulties to Encounter.²

¹ Charlotte, surviving her brother and sister, succeeded, at the death of her father, to the barony of Strange, and the sovereignty of the Isle of Man. Her ladyship m. her cousin John Murray, Esq., who succeeded as 3rd Duke of Athole. — BURKE'S *Peerage*.

² Henry Harford was acknowledged proprietary of the province, of which Robert Eden (as he was one of the executors of the will, and guardian of the boy) remained the Governor. The Hon. Mrs. Browning, however (who, by her father, Charles, Lord Baltimore, had been left the reversion in case of the death of her brother Frederick without issue), through her husband, John Browning, entered suit in the Court of Chancery. Charles Browning, in his appeal to the citizens of Maryland in 1821, says that this case "was in part argued before the Lord Chancellor, but between that time and the time appointed by his Lordship for a second hearing, news had arrived in

If any Thing that a wicked & a foolish Man does, could justly be Matter of Wonder, this Will wou'd really be unaccountable. Till now, this Boy was scandalously neglected: his Mother¹ long ago displac'd on a very scanty Pension. Whilst M^r Hales was thought to possess a plenary influence over Him, was constantly with Him, as well as her Children.

I shall hardly need to say what Confusion this Event is likely to produce amongst us. The general Opinion seems to be, that the Crown, if not urged by an Attention to the Safety of the Subject, yet as constitutional Guardian to the illegitimate Boy, will immediately appoint to the Government. The Northern Papers, I hear, have already mention'd M^r Zachary Hood, the Man that came in here as Stamp-Master, for the Gov^t. I think it is far more probable that your Friend Coll. Mercer will be the Man; unless Governor Eden & his Friends should apply, which hitherto He seems by no means determined upon. It certainly is, by no means, a very romantic Conjecture, to imagine that We shall now ere long become a royal Government: a Revolution but little wish'd For by the people here.

I hardly ever have seen a Man bear the Shock of ill news with such Composure as the Governor: undoubtedly, nothing was remoter from his Expectations, than so absurd & reproachful a Distribution of so immense an Estate, which He had been repeat-

England that the United States of America had declared themselves independent of Great Britain, which the Lord Chancellor stated to the Council on the day appointed for the further hearing of the cause, and objected to hear it, alleging, it was only a waste of time, as let it belong to which it would, he had no power to give the rightful owner possession."

¹ Hester Wheland.

edly assur'd wou'd belong to his Family. M^r Eden indeed is more affected. She well may, having been tormented by him thro' the whole Course of her Life, &, at last, most villainously dup'd & cheated. Cajol'd by his specious assurances, the Gov^r was tempted to give up his Prospects in the Army, which were Flattering, & M^r Eden, decoy'd hither [mutilated] against her Inclination. It is happy for them, that They have [mutilated] comfortable Competence to retire to, Fortunately out of his Re [mutilated]

The Gov^r begg'd Me most cordially to thank You for your Friend [mutilated] & to assure You of his great Esteem & Regard for You. I expect [mutilated] next Week, & had You been at Home, We shou'd certainly have [mutilated] other tempted You to join Us. He has got You a very handsome & [mutilated] Whale Boat, for £20, which, I fancy is by this Time at Mount [mutilated]¹

I beg the Favour of You to speak to your two Printers, & [mutilated] my News-Papers, if by this Time, I owe Them for a Year. I shall [mutilated] also, You will be so good as remind Them to direct for Me To the Care of [mutilated] Merch^{ts} in Bladensburg, as I have hardly seen one Virg^a Paper since Xmas [mutilated] Purdie & Dixon will oblige Me by sending Me, the Address of the Clergy [mutilated] ward, & D^r Chandler's Appeal &c¹ which I have seen advertised by Them.

¹ By Cash p^d Col^d Fitzhugh, by Gov^r Eden }
for a Whale-Boat £19.15 Mary^d C^r eq^l to } . . . 15 . 16

(Washington's *Ledger*.)

² The Rev. Thomas Bradbury Chandler, D. D., of Elizabeth Town, N. J., published in 1767 an *Appeal in Behalf of the Church of England in America*, which

I hope to see You in Maryland soon after your
Return, &, in the mean Time, am, D^r Sir,
y^r aff^r Fr^d & most obed^t hble Serv^t
JONA^N BOUCHER

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

15th 1772

STEWARTS CROSSING March

SIR/

I Received yours of the 6th of Decem^r I should
have had your Land Run out at the Great medows
but M^r McClain is not com up from his fathers as
yeat but is to be up in a few days and I will have it
don and send you a Draft of the hole by the first
oppertunity I would have had it done as soon as
I cam up but he cold not do it before he went to
Philadelphia

As to Craughan¹ Claim of the Land near Fort
pitt, he Claim^a and is selling any Land that any Per-
son will by of him in sid or out side of his Line and
offer^a his bond to make a Title for it and have no
mony till then, at ten pounds Sterling p^r 100 acres,
and has his Survayors Runing out Land now Con-
stanly and the have taken and Run out Land for
himself teen Mile^a Clear of his Line I saw his order
to his Survayor and they was to Run out 30 thou-
sand acres of Land at 1000 acres in a tract and if

urged the appointment of bishops for that country. This *Appeal* led to a great
controversy throughout the colonies. Virginia took up the question warmly; Rev.
Thomas Gwatkin (professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at William and
Mary) being one of four Virginia clergymen to oppose the measure.

¹ Croghan's.

the People will not Purches of him upon those terms he will Let them go to the first that will So People does not Know what to do, Som in order to Pervent Disputs Enterd the Lands with him and then the have Six pound p^r Tract to pay his Survayor which Ocasions much Disputs amongst the people where it will end I do not now

There is no sartanty yeat of the Charters Govern-ment taking place as was proposed when you was at Fort Pitt or of Col^o Craughan^a Grant being confirm^d and som Disput^a it being ever Confirmd and I hear no talk of the Traders having Any Land on the Ohio There is som talk of a goverment to be on the Ohio at the Mouth.

I shall do my Endeavour to keep your Land I took up for ^{you} _^ but I am afraid I shall be hard put to it, but I have Built four good Cabin^a on it, and Clear^d about an Acre of Land at Each Cabin fit for the Plough which I think will hold it till there is Som way of Securing it farther.

I have seen McMahon^a Land he had to Seell but it was not such as it was Recomend^d to me and be sids there is a Disput about part of it a man has Built a Cabin on the best of it but if had not a bin so it would not suted you it is two Hilly and not Rich neither

There will be [no ?] Posability of taking up such a Quantity as you want near Fort pitt as there is such numbers of People out now Looking for Land and one takeing Each other^a Land from him as soon as a man^a back is turn^d an other is on his Land the

man that is strong and able to make Other^a Afraid of him Seem^a to have the best Chance as tim^a go now

Probaly I may fall in with such a body of Land on som of the small Creek^a Down the Ohio if so I will take it for you and as soon as I can I will send it to you a Draft and Description of the the Place

I am Sir your

Hum^a Sarvant

W CRAWFORD

FROM THOMAS JOHNSON, JR.⁴

ANNAPO 26. Mar 1772.

SIR.

I inclose you a Letter from my Bro^r John to your Lady² he was at my House last Week and intended

¹ Born in St. Leonard's, Calvert County, Maryland, November 4, 1732; died at Rose Hill, Frederick County, October 25, 1819. Elected first Governor of Maryland February 13, 1777. The vote for governor was as follows: Thomas Johnson, Jr., 40; Samuel Chase, 9; Matthew Tilghman, 1; George Plater, 1; William Paca, 1.

² ANNAPOLIS 21 March 1772

MADAM.

The very bad Weather which prevented almost any Communication and my Expectation that the Means left with Miss Custis are not yet expended occasioned my not sending any more so soon as I designed — I now send by the Post a small Phial to be frequently smelt to as Hartshorne or other Drops commonly used to prevent fail[n]tness and a small Bottle of Ointm^t to be applied as before directed. The Decoction I left must be ~~ap~~ taken if Occasion requires it tho' I hope Nature will perform her Office without. I imagine it will be unnecessary to assure Miss Custis that I have the greatest Hopes her Happiness will be much promoted by regular moderate Exercise, temperate living which she may think Abstemiousness and her being attentive to keep her Body cool and open which last may I hope be effectually done and agreeably to herself by the Use of Barley Water and light cooling Food — Frumenty made of Barley or even of Wheat wou'd I think be very proper Food is agreeable to many and perhaps might be so at Times to Miss Custis — I hear that Master Custis said in Annapolis she was better I have great Pleasure in it and should be glad to hear more particularly of her State

I am Madam

Your most obedient Servant

JOHN JOHNSON

then to have sent it but the post made so little Stay that tho' my Bro^r went to the Office several Times he slipped him. —

There were some Expences on the Bill passed last Session in fav^r of M^r Semple it is usual here in Imitation of what I think a bad proced^r in England to tax fees on private Bills — this was taxed

To the Speaker — 6. — . —

the Clk of the Lo Ho — 3. — . — Comon Money i e Dollars at 7/6 — and I believe in the Upper Ho. as much. I should be obliged by your having the Money remitted as I have paid part of it and promised to write to you on the Subject.

I am s^r

Your most hble Serv^t

TH^s JOHNSON. JUN^R

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

DEAR SIR

LEESBURG April the 14th

1772.

Doctor Savage tells me that it would be very convenient to him, if you cou'd pay the £150, which you have kindly offered to advance for me, and for which I return You Many Thanks; to him or to M^r Montgomerie at the Gen^l Court when the Merchants meet, and has desired me to write to you for that Purpose if it should be convenient ¹

¹ 1772. Bryan Fairfax Esq^r
Apr^l. 20 To Cash paid Doct^r
Savage on y^r Acc^t

D^r
150--

1773. Contra C^t
March — By a Tract of 600 Acr^t of
Land in Fauquier County
— lying on Goose C^t . . 150--
(Washington's Ledger.)

I did myself the pleasure to write to you a few days agoe ; so that I have nothing further to add but that I am

D^r sir

Y^r most obed^t S^t

BRYAN FAIRFAX

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

SIR/

I have still Keep^t your Land but With much Difficulty I turnd six men of in the first of March ho had built a house and cleared about 2 or 3 Acres for which paid them five pounds and I have Built houses on each part, four in all and Cleared som Land and hired a man to stay and Keep possision till I Return as nothing will do now but possision and hardly that I do not find I can get you the Quantity of Land you spook to me for without I cold stay all Summer and be on the spot as People Crowd out in such numbers the Like never was seen. I beleve thays settled as Low as wheelin¹ and som Lower down as Low as Grave Creek — I have herd that they Charter Government is Confirm^d but on what terms they Land will be [granted] I do not now

Col^o Croghan is still survaying of Land and selling to any body that will by but I can hear nothing of any Confirmation of his Grant by any Person but himself When the Surveyor com up Val^o Crawford will

¹ Wheeling.

Attend the Survey of your place at the Great Meadows and have the Draft sent you by the first opportunity

I am Sir your most
Hum! Sarvant
W CRAWFORD

May 7th 1 day 1772

FROM THOMAS JOHNSON, JR.

ANNAPOLIS 10th May 1772

SIR

M^r Tilghman the Speaker of our House of Assembly not being in Town I could not procure a Receipt from him. I send you one from myself for £6. as recd for his Use if that is not sufficient I will get one from himself and inclose it to you: as soon as I have an Opportunity — I inclose you a Receipt from the Clerk of the Upper Ho and another from the Clerk of the Lower House for £3. each I thought there was the like fee to the President of the Upper House as to the Speaker but on Inquiry finding myself mistaken I return you 16 Dollars.

M^r Ballendine has been here two or three Days but M^r Mason has not yet come I fear our Governor is still under an Impression that a Concurrence by our Assembly in a Scheme with yours for clearing Potowmack may weaken the proprietary Claim of Jurisdiction over that River and consequently that he is not at Liberty to assent to such Bill tho' I believe in his own Judgment clearing the River is an Object which deserves immediate Attention and that

he wishes to see it effected. If the Govern^r should be under such Impression and should not write Home to be set more at large or should write unsuccessfully as the delay that might be thereby occasioned would at all Events be highly prejudicial I would submit to your Consideration whether it might not be prudent that a strong Representation should be sent to England, to be made use of in case it should be necessary, to procure an Intimation from thence that a Bill ought to pass here: If Instructions ought at all to be sent to Governors as the Rule of their Conduct I have no Idea but that propry Instructions might properly be superseded by Instructions from the King in Council and if so I cannot apprehend there would be the least Difficulty in obtaining an Order for the passage of a Bill in which the Trade and Subjects are so much interested though it might possibly collaterally affect the prors Claim of Jurisdiction — I shall be glad that our Gov^r Letters to Virginia may evince that my Apprehensions are Groundless but if my Conjectures are well founded I much wish that no Time may be lost.¹

I am Sir

Your most obedient Servant

TH^S JOHNSON JUN^R

¹ The Potomac Company was organized in May, 1762, for the purpose of opening navigation "from Fort Cumberland on Wills Creek, to the Great Falls." It was a favorite project of Washington's, but was opposed by the Baltimore merchants. The war absorbed all lesser schemes, but in May, 1785, the Company was reorganized, and Washington elected its first president. In 1820, after much fruitless expenditure, the idea was abandoned, and the organization merged into the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

FROM MR. JAMES BALFOUR.¹WM^BBURG May 10th 1772 —

SIR,

A Power of Attorney has just come to hand from the heir of Magdalen Stott, who claims under the Will of Tho^s Colvill dec^d by virtue of the inclos'd paragraph of his Will ² —

I shall be extremely Oblig'd to you to drop me a line of information as I am perfectly unacquainted in this affair — what steps I ought to take in behalf of the Claimant, and whether any Money on Account of the Residuary Legatees have ever been remitted to London — or what this Claimant has a prospect to expect — or rather I mean what will be the Sum that the Residuary Legatees may expect, or any other information you think necessary to enable me to fulfill the trust reposed in me —

Pardon me for this trouble and permit me to remain with respect Your ob Ser^t

JAMES BALFOUR

N B Please to mention what Claimants
have offerd as Stotts heir desires to know }

FROM COLONEL BERNARD MOORE.

DEAR SIR

Your favour of April the 27th came to hand, I am to inform you that my Estate was sold on purpose

¹ Of Hampton, Elizabeth City County, father of Dr. George Balfour, U. S. A., who "braved the perils of the west under the gallant Wayne, who, at a subsequent period, on Presque Isle, breathed his last in his arms."

² See letter from Dr. Boucher dated May 9, 1771, *ante*.

to discharge the debt due to you, and others that my friend Col^o Baylor was bound for me, Young M^r Edmund Pendleton has all the Bonds to collect for all the Negroes that was sold, by the particular desire of Col^o Baylor before his death, and if you will be so kind to write to him, or his Unkle Col^o Pendleton he will I believe pay both the Principal & interest; Col^o Pendleton is Col^o Baylor's Exetor, who I am sure will discharge the interest immediately, if not the principal.

M^r Walker is now making out a proper list of the Negroes that was purchased by my friends for my use,¹ and you may be assured that every thing proper will be done to secure you, and my other friends who was so kind to assist me. M^r Moore joins in our Love to you & our good friend M^r Washington & be assured that I am most sincerely

My Dear Sir

Your aff Hble Serv^t

BER^d MOORE

11th May 1772

FROM COLONEL BURWELL BASSETT.

WMSBURG 13 May 1772

DEAR SIR

We got to Eltham the third^{day} after we left^{you} & found the Children & family pritty will, my Eyes was so

¹ There is in Hening, vol. viii. p. 476, an Act of Assembly passed November, 1769, "to vest certain lands whereof Bernard Moore, esquire, is seized in fee tail, in trustees, to be sold, and the money laid out in the purchase of other lands and slaves, to be settled to the same uses." The trustees named in this Act are John Baylor, Carter Braxton, Thomas Walker, Thomas Jefferson, and John Walker.

much affected by the dust that I was afraid I should have lost my sight they are a little Better now M^r Bassett and Betsy have been very unwell since we left you But are better now the other Children are very well, I did not get to town before Col^o Fairfax had left^{it} or should have wrote by him I apply'd to Col^o Moores Trustees ~~about~~ & let them know that you had sent the Money by me that you agreed to lend Col^o Moore & the terms that you expected to advance it on, there answer was that you was upon different terms with others for you had wrote to them to give Col^o Moore C^r for £100 & that you would pay the Money upon which I pay the Money by there order to George Brookes a day or two after this M^r ^{John}~~The~~ Walker come to town & I spoke to him on the subject & he has agreed that you shall be on the same terms as others & has given me and Instre-ment in writing Obliging himself to make us a Deed for the Negroes to return to us after the Death of Col^o Moore & his Lady

I have engaged the Bills you sent by me for 20 pr Ct & the Rise's & expect to get the Money to day & pay it to Hill, I mention to the Hanover Merch^t what you desire about the fistr¹ But could^{get} know information from them as the thing had never been trid, they all promis'd to make Enquiry when they went up & let me know & as soon as they do I^{will} write to you, Col^o Banister took the Horse at thirty two pounds Str & will pay you in October, Let Miss

¹ First ?

Patsy know that I sent her the things that her Ant promis'd to get her by M^r Mongory, please to let M^{rs} Washington know that her Sister will write to her & send the Letter to Ruffins to go up by some of the Mercht, —

I desire you'll offer my best respects to M^{rs} W & Love to Patsy & Except the same from

D^r S^r

Y^r aff^{nate} Hble Serv^t

BUR^L BASSETT

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

YORK COUNTY 14th May 1772

SIR /

On my way to Rockahock the 9th of this Instant I met with Col^o Bassett with your letter & instructions to Receive some money for you I made all the dispatch I could back & have waited on all the gen^l you Directed, & received from Col^o Geo Brook Executor to M^r Philip Claiborne 14th the 11th of this Ins^t of M^r William Dandridge Jun^r for M^r William Dandridge Sen^r £22-0-5 the 13th, and of M^r Thomas Prosser £7-5-9 the 13th & have seen Augustine Seaton & he told me he Expected the mony Had been Paid long ago by Col^o Moore & believe there is ^{but} a Little chance to Get any at all from him, & M^r Foster I went to him from Rockahock & he could not Pay the Hole till New Kent Co^t¹ & have sent to Co^t But have not had the returns yet, as it was out of my Power to

¹ Court.

go up myself Col^d Bassett has paid me 400£ & I have Paid Jackson off & have Taken a Rec^t on the Back of the Note of Hand in full & Stopd the 50£ for Chrosia Graves which will pay him immediately — I have not made Sail of But very little of the Corne for the Easten shore Vessels run over & sold at 14/ & Did not care to take less than 15 for what I had which will not be Near so much as I expected for the Spring Proving so very Backward & the weather so cold & the fodder has been out Ever since you went away at Every Plantation was oblige to Keep the Stocks upon Corne & have Lossd but few Below & not many above they have Destroyed a good deal of corne — the Seins at Rockahock Rented for 90£ which was £7-10 for Every man that took a day[&] made out his Gang I expected when you was down the Seins would hire at £9 instead of 7£ 10 But when I went up the People woud not Give it I Recd all the money to £3 which I lookd upon to be bad & woud not be concernd with it — The fellow that always run away in M^r Vollentines time is gone again^{his Name is Will Shagg} I have not struck him a blow since I Lived on the Place I wish you woud agree to sell him I was offerd £80 By Jackson cash if he could be Got, for him

I have Hird a man to worke with Carpenters at a very high Price I could not get a young man for Less^{than} 30 od Pounds & I had an Extrordinary carrier of this man & he formerly worked in the Estate his name is^{Roger} Tandry I could not get him for Less than 45£ a year tho we^{are} not confined to Each other for more than 6 Months tho think it a very High Price

but applied to Several Good Judges & they advised me to give it rather than a young man at 30£ tho would not agree for more than 6 Months, & if you disapprove of it Believe I may Get of sooner for he ant fond of takeing that his Price was 50£ he at last fell to 45 & he woud not confine him Self for more than 6 Months — I have Purchased a horse of the Miller at 9£ for a worke Horse at Mill Quarter I think worke Horses are much want^r in the Estate but they are so Excessive dear there is no such thing as Purchasing Down with us if its in your Power to Purchase on Reasonable Terms with you shoud be much oblige to you to Purchase one or two by the fall as I immagine they dont sell so dear up the country as they do below — in regard to our Crops there appears to be a plenty of Plants but the weather Proving very Dry & Cool the fly destroys them very fast & at Rockahock they are Very Backward they have not worke Horses Enough for that Plantation as I think it an Extrodinary Place for Grain you desired to enquire what M^r Vallentine did with your Horreses upon breakg up your Plantations he sold one to a man that ant worth one farthing I dont think it worth while to bring Suit for not one friend he has will be his Security & he has Parted with the Horse his Name is W^m Blasingham M^r Vallentine has taken his Note of Hand & ^I offerd if he woud Give Security I would wait 6 Months but he cant get any one to undertake — M^r Lyon apply^d to me to know what to do with Frazer as the Suit abates on M^r Vallentines death as the Bond was taken in his Name & the Ex^{rs} wants

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to Assign it to me but I would not be concernd without y^r Instructions for if the Suit had not abated the money might a been got for since his death Trimbles is gone off by the bond being taken in his Name that if youl Please to write to me your advice I will follow your Instructions but Shant be concernd with the Bond untel I hear from you, & M^r Lyons desires to know what you'l have done in it

from your M^o Hble Serv^t

JAMES HILL

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

22^d May, 1772.

DEAR SIR

I send Joe over on purpose to let you know that the Gov^t & M^r Eden will not wait on You this Trip: Some unforeseen occasions call them again to Annap^o sooner than They expected; They therefore desir'd Me to beg your Excusing Them at this Time. They still talk, if it be practicable, that They will visit You before M^r Eden leaves the Country: but, of this shou'd I chance to get notice, as I probably shall, I shall find occasion hereafter to inform You — The Gov^t dines with y^r Neighb^r M^r Digges tomorrow, & sleeps at M^r Roger's, where I am again to meet Him. Shou'd You be quite at Leisure, & your Whale Boat be arriv'd, perhaps You may be tempted to try her. 'Squire Calvert alone accompanies Him. Mentioning this Gentleman's Name, reminds Me of a Request He made to Me, that I wou'd engage of You for Him & myself, thirty or forty Weathers, for Mut-

tons, in the next Fall, if You shou'd then have so many to spare. I beg You to attend to This, & to give Us the Preference to any other Chap: We will hereafter contrive about getting them over, if We can but have Them. — I forgot too, in my L^t by Peale, to tell You from M^r S. Galloway, that He had sent You two Cases of excellent Claret (I have tasted it, & it really is good) to M^r Ignatius Digges's I think each Case contains 6 Doz:, & I believe at 45/. ~~per~~ doz: I guess You will have it carted down to Piscat^l. & fetch it thence by Water: & if I can be made assisting to You, surely You will not hesitate ast command^r Me.

With this vile Pen & ink, even were I not exceedingly hurried, I have some doubts whether You will be able to read what I attempt to scrawl: I will not therefore add a Word more but that

I am most truly y^r &c

J. BOUCHER

FROM COLONEL JOHN CARLYLE.¹

[A Copy]

ALEXANDRIA June 28. 1772.

SIR,

I rec'd yours and Col Washington shall have freight for 250 or 80 barrels of flour at 5/ pr barrel. I believe the vessel will sail to Barbadoes, In her way taking the markets, but this is not yet determined. If she does, she still goes to Jamaica where we have considerable effects to bring home.

As to her Despatch here you may depend on it,

¹ Probably to Lund Washington.

and I expect to have her down channel & ready this week and hope to have her loaded and to sail the week afterwards.

Yr humble Serv^t

JOHN CARLYLE.

=====

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

TOWLSON July the 15th 1772.

DEAR SIR

I have received a Letter lately from M^r Smith wherein he makes no mention at all of the Tract of 600 Acres on Goose Creek & chattins Run; so that I may dispose of ^{it} [to] you without waiting longer for the Man he had agreed with, which it was kind in you to propose. I wish we could agree about the Land on Pohick or that on the Kittochtan for which I must take a less price still than I have fallen to; especially considering the Sum you still purpose to advance on Acco^t of M^r Muirs ¹ Bill which M^r Baynes lately pressed me to pay. I had some thoughts of riding to M^r Vernon soon; in order to attend you to pohick but being uncertain, on Account of my harvest and haying being backward, I take the Opportunity My Sister Washington ² affords me of writing. M^{rs} Fairfax & Sally desire their Compliments with

D^r Sir

Y^r most Obed^t &

obliged hble Serv^t

BRYAN FAIRFAX

¹ John Muir, of Alexandria.

² Hannah, youngest daughter of Colonel William Fairfax, was the second wife of Warner Washington.

If it should happen that either
of the Hounds sent down lately should
not please you I beg to have the first offer of them;
I mention this because I am convinced that ^{all} Sports-
men do not look on Dogs in the same Light, of
which you are also satisfied from the many super-
excellent dogs you have had given you, which have
not answered y^r Expectation. Some allowance must
be made for prejudice, perhaps therefore you'll not
think Rouser equal to Ringwood, tho' I do expect
that he is closemouthed. Dabster tho' a great Bab-
bler at first I liked the best of the three; which I
mention lest he should at first for want of Practice
return to his Babbling and you should condemn him
too soon. Tho' you did not seem to like Ranger I
really think he was as good a Dog as ever I had
except his want of a good Nose — Rouser is exactly
such another in every Respect. Two of my hounds
running a Fox yesterday great part of the day hath
revived the Subject in my Mind & hath caused this
postscript.

FROM COLONEL JOHN CARLYLE.

ALEX July 21 1772

D^R SIR/

Cap^t Brodie woud Inform you the Reason I did ^{not} _Λ
Call on You, If he did not I Assure You it was for no
other Reason but the Great Company I See & heard
of at y^r house & I thought myself & my little Com-
panion not In A proper Dress for Straingers You
or Y^r family I woud have made free with, Therefor
hope for Y^r Excuse —

The Captain Comeing Up this Evening Surprised me & tells me You wanted bills of Lading I have filled up Two as many as I think Necessary Without You Consigne Y^r Cargo to any Person on the Islands In that case you may Take three I have Consigned mine & M^r Daltons Interest on board to the Captains & M^r Adams Joyntly, & therefor take but two bills of Lading the Freight I Intend is the Currency Of the Island where the Comodity is Sold & No more

I hope y^e Sailes & Returns will Please You & that the Vessel may make A Short Voyage for the benifit of All Concerned, tho M^r Lun Washington has not given the Assistance he promised but Suppose he was Tyerd with harvest & now Rejoyceing the Lab^r is Over — I am with great Regard D^r Sir

Y^r Very Hble Ser^t

JOHN CARLYLE

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

W^{MS}BURG July 24th 1772—

SIR/

I reced your Letter the 18th of June after I had set off from Home to the Easten Shore where I was gone a fortnight & Have been over the Hole Estate there & have Acted in the best manner I coud in respect to the Stocks of Sheep on Mockon Isleland wherein M^r Vallentine Joind Stocks with one M^r John Stratton & I have broke up the Partnership & am desirous of no Persons Joining without your Consent, I shoud have Wrote to you Sooner But have waited

for the Ship to come in y^t I might write to you for Instructions ab^t Ship^s. the Tob^o whether the Hole go on board Cap^t Peterson as he tells me he Expects the Hole & Cap^t Easton was at my House this morn^s & says he Always carried 10 or 12 Hhds that in Particular from the Easten Shore which is 6 Hhds which will not be as much as he wants & he goes of Next week that if he is to have any I must get an Answer from you as Quick as Possable — I shoud have Shipd the Hole on board Cap^t Peterson if Cap^t Easton had not Applyed, but shant^{do} any thing ab^t it ~~ab^t~~ untill I receive y^r Answer — you wrote me concerning the money that I had not Sent you an Acc^t of the Hole money I recd the reason the 10[£] 16 was not mention'd in my Letter Col^o Lewis Recd^t it him self & After I had wrote to you he gave me a Rec^t for it & I had seald my Letter to you & knew he would Give you an Acc^t of it which I immagined woud make no Material Difference whether I gave you an acc^t or not as I was certain he woud as he Received it tho I stated^{it} in my Acc^t with you — I have not sold The corn yet am now wait^s in Town to make Sail but the Price of corn appear to be falling I cant get more than 13/ & 13/6 ^{per} Bar^t what I sell from Home I get 15/for there is one or two Gen^t from the Easten Shore that wants to Purchase that Corn from there but they offer but 13/ ^{per} Bar^t & am wait^s for a Better Price I am in hopes the Price will rise before the court Brakes there is Severall Gen^t that is now wait^s to make Sail of theres & they tell me they Expect a better Price — our Crops are Likely as can

Possably be Expected for Quantity of Poor Ground we are obliged to tend ~~there~~ only Rockahock & there is but a very Indifferent Prospect there for Every thing we have lost a fine young wench in childbed there Doctor Pasteur was sent up to her but she was Delivered before he got up & appeared to be Tollerable well & drank Cold water & Killd her immediately

I have Lost an old fellow from Mill Quarter with the consumption & a negro child from y^r Quarter in King William That I had brought down to be convenient to the Doctor that we might [not] be at the Expence of Paying for Visits but the child Did not Live more than 3 or 4 days after I got it down it appeared to have the mange as bad as I ever saw a Pigg & has been in That Condition for some time & the overseer told me he had Purged it Several times but to no Purpose & I gave it a Purge as soon as it came down but I saw it was Past cure I sent it to the Doctor & he was from Home all the Rest at this time is very well only a wench at Rockahock has a Complaint in her Eyes & have ordered her down to get curd — I have not got that Fellow Will Shag that was Run away But I think to send him to the Easten Shore as soon as I get him being in a Hurry the Post Just going of

Y^r M^o Hble Serv^t

JAMES HILL

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

TOWLSTON August the 3, 1772

DEAR SIR,

I am about setting off for the Springs, & as I have very little time to spare, having been busy at my Meadow to day & been at the Mill & Great Falls, & having some other Letters to write this Evening, I hope you'll excuse the conciseness of this.

As to the most material Business of M^r Savages I have reced^d a Letter also from M^r Bomford. On the Receipt of your Favor at Alexandria I went to M^r Harrison and asked him about the deeds of Settlement when he told me there must^{have} been such before Marriage because the Bond relates to them — and there must be^{the} deeds together with an authentic Copy of the Bond which M^r Bomford writes for, but where they were recorded neither of us knew but we supposed in the Gen^l Court or in Loudon where the Lands lie, & if I omitted to mention this in my subsequent Letters it was thro' Forgetfulness. As M^r Montgomerie as you mentioned was expected to be at Alexandria at June Court I desired M^r Harrison to let me know if he came up and I would go down with his Receipt however inconvenient — And now I have thoughts of sending it by your Boy as I am to be a month from home but am doubtful at present in case it should miscary. I imagine the Deeds executed at Dumfries are not what M^r Bomford writes for because he mentions all Deeds and Papers executed on or before her marriage.

I have sent inclosed the patent for the 600 Acres which is the only title I have except another deed of the same Tenor & date. I inherit it as heir at Law to My Brother W^m — I shall be ready to go with you to Pohick when it may suit you after my Return. I am not uneasy tho disappointed a little (tho' indeed I have no Reason to call it a disappointment as I could not have raised the money without your Assistance) And shall wait till it may suit your Convenience.

As I pass thro' Loudon I will write to Rogers & direct him to send copies of the deeds to you if any such as I mentioned above be recorded in that office.

What you mention about your Puppies is surprising — Murich's Litter last year decreased daily from 8 to 4 and she was observed each day carrying one out.

M^r Fairfax tells me it was conjectured by some at M^r Vernon that I wanted my hounds back again that I had sent down ; but altho' I have given away hounds before now & been afterwards ~~been~~ sorry for it I should never ask for them again even in an indirect manner — but that was not the case with these — I was glad I could accommodate you so well without any disadvantage to myself, and it is not unusual with me to ask for the return of good hounds if they should not please, because as I said before Sportsmen differ, and I should be sorry that you should have occasion to return 'em.

Mine have^{been} reduced in their speed I hope by parting wth them, having run a Fox lately so long that I had time to come home to Breakfast & to Dinner before the chace ended to the disgrace of the whole tired pack.

M^{rs} Fairfax &c Compl^{ts} with mine to M^{rs} Washington & Family . and I remain with much Esteem

D^r Sir Y^r most obed^t Serv^t

BRYAN FAIRFAX.

FROM MR. AMOS STRETTELL.¹

PHILAD^a. 4th Aug^a 1772 —

SIR,

By yesterdays post I rec^d a Letter from our mutual good Friend Col^l Fielding Lewis ordering £600 Pensilv^a Currency Insurance For your acc^t on 273 Bar^{ls} Sup^{er}fine Burr Flour Shippd on board the Brig^t Fairfax Samuel Brodie M^r, but as I am not advisd where she is bound, nor cannot by any means discover, as the ship Entrys are not printed in the late Virginia papers, I am obligd to wait his or your Information ; on rec^t whereof, my best Endeavours shall be us'd to procure your Insurance on the most Favourable terms w^{ch} may be in the power of

Sir, Your very Hble serv^t

AMOS STRETTELL

no time should
be lost in advising
me where the Brig^t is bound to.

¹ A wealthy merchant of Philadelphia, son of Mayor Robert Strettell and Philotesia (Owen) Strettell; born in England; came to America with his parents and two sisters in 1736. His older brother, John Strettell, remained in London with his grandfather, John Owen, where he became an eminent merchant. Amos Strettell had one son, Robert, who died without issue, and two daughters, who married Benjamin and Cadwalader Morris. He died in Philadelphia, 1780.

FROM MR. AMOS STRETTELL.

PHILAD^a 18th Aug^d 1772.

SIR,

Your Favour of 14th Curr^t has enabled me to compleat your Insurance of the Fairfax as above acc^t (say annexed acc^t,)¹ so far as the Nature of your Adventure will admit without running you to an extra advance of præm^o subject to conditional Returns afterwards, which on several acc^{ts} might prove disadvantageous to you, altho' [it] is often done on risques not comencing in our own Port.

I presume Col^l Lewis may not be returnd Home From the warm springs, & defer writing to him until next Post.

I am very Respectfully,

Sir, y^r ass^d fr^d & serv^tAMOS STRETTELL

¹ Acc^t of £600. Insurance, procurd by order of Col^l Fielding Lewis, on Goods For acc^t of Col^l George Washington, on board the Brig^t Fairfax Samuel Brodie M^r. at and from Virginia to Barbados, at 2½% præm^o, under Agreement that if the above Vessel proceeds to any other Islands, ¼% more Præmium shall be allowd For each Island she touches at ; & if she proceeds to Jamaica, 1 % From the last Island she touches at. £200. of Samuel Mifflin.

200. of Willing & Morris.

100. of Robert Morris.

& 100. of James & Drinker.

£600. at 2½% præm^o, to Barbados } - 15
only, am^{ts} to . . . }

Policy 5 ..

my Comission at ¼% on £600 . . 3

Amount carried to the Debit of Col^l }
Fielding Lewis his Rec^t Curr^t is } £18 .. 5 ..
eighteen Pounds & Five shillings at present.

Philadelphia 18th Aug^d 1772.

Errors Excepted

AMOS STRETTELL.

FROM MRS. MARGARET SAVAGE.

WHITEHAVEN Aug^r 19th 1772 —

DEAR SIR/ I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind & agreeable favour conveyed to me by my friend M^r Dixon, with the amount of the Bill £.53-, you were so good as send for my relief, which believe me my dear Friend came most seasonably; my situation is terrible, but without it, it would have been wretched indeed. — It would argue a base, & ungratefull mind to omitt this opportunity of tendering you all in my power to bestow, the tribute of an Honest, Sincere & gratefull Heart for this Act of generosity & Friendship, which suffer me to solicit your continuance of, & under your protection, I doubt not the recovery of my Settlement, from that cruel Man, by which I shall, I trust in God, be able to spend the remainder of my days with some little peace, which, or Comfort, I have been a Stranger to since I parted with you. — The loss of the four Years Annuity was a terrible stroke on me, but this I was fearfull of, for before his departure he made me Sign a paper, the Contents I knew not: — I refused it, till my life was in danger from him, for Oh did you know all you would truly pitty me. — My kind friend M^r Dixon gives me some little glimmering hope that you will yet be able to recover the £400 — that M^r Montgomery was going to pay you, to assist which he advises my making a declaration on Oath, that I did not know the Contents of the paper I signed, & that he compelled me to the Execution, this I intend to do before I leave this, & indeed was one principal

cause of my coming here, & to consult with M^r Dixon, to whom any Letters you are so kind as send me, will come safe: The Money you will be so good as continue to pay M^r Piper, who has my Power for the same, who will remitt it in like manner, this I must intreat M^r Piper to adhere to, being my real wish & desire, & should he receive Letters to the Contrary he must not attend to them, for my Situation may be such, as to cause me to write in a manner I do not like, for my desire & Order is for M^r Piper to remitt the Money to M^r Dixon 'till that Gentlemⁿ receives it him self. — The Negro Wench Sarah & Children I apprehend to be my property under the deed of Settlement, as such could wish they were turned into Money, & remitted me by M^r Piper, should be rejoiced she would suit you, in which case any price you would fix on them would be agreeable to me. — May I now Solicet my most Affectionate Compliments being tendered your Lady, Col^o Fairfax & Lady, and all my other good Friends, relying on your goodness & protection, I remain. — Dear Sir,

Your ever obliged & affec^t Hble Serv^t

MARG^T SAVAGE

FROM THOMAS EVERARD, ESQ.¹

SIR

Inclosed are the Original Deeds from Green to

¹ Thomas Everard held many important positions in Virginia. He was clerk of the General Court, clerk of York County and of Elizabeth City County, and, in conjunction with James Cocke, Auditor of the State from 1761 to 1780. He married Diana, daughter of Major Anthony Robinson, of York County.

Savage there are no other Deeds between these Parties recorded in the General Court.

I am Sir

Your most ^{hble} Serv^t

THO^s EVERARD

29 August 1772.

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

Sunday Morn^g. 30th of August 1772

SIR

I reced your Letter from the Post office dated August 3^d & it did not Come to me in several days after & y^r Directions in respect to the Tob^o could not be complied with for I was informd that Capt Easton Had his Load so that I never Heard from him after y^r Letter came to hand & our Tob^o in New Kent happend not to be Inspected & I have had more Trouble to get it Inspected than I ever had ab^t any one thing in all my Life. I offerd the Tob^o ^{to} the Inspectors in April Last & they desired me not to have it Brought for they were Quite full & Begd that I might continue the old Custom wch was when the Ship was in & sent for the Tob^o they Brought the Tob^o & had it inspected & carried of immediately & before The Inspection was out I goes three Different times to have the Tob^o inspected & they desired the overseer not to bring it for they could Not take it they were Quite full & they s^d if the Ship made it ^{it} Late they woud inspect after the Inspection was out, & when the Ship carried down the Tob^o They woud

not Inspect it they s^d the Law was [~]against it & must wait to have ^{7e} Lawyers opinions & some was of oppinion they might Look at it & others to y^e contrary at Last they agreed if I woud Get M^r Wallers oppinion they woud Inspect it wch M^r Waller readily gave ^{it was} as through there Instigations it was not Lookd at in time they ought to do it wch was done a wednesday & thursday Last, & have Purchased the overseers parts at the Cash Price wch should be Glad to know if you approve of it or not, as I had not y^e Instructions to do it I was informed it was Generally done in M^r Vallentines time — As John Vallentine was not there I left a Hhd for him & when he swore to his father's agremt with him I woud setle with him Accord gly & left word with one of the overseers to let him know if he woud take the same Price as the Rest did I woud take it the ships fleet — is ^{to} take the Ball^e to morrow — Rockahock 9 Brick House 9 old Quarter 4 Harlows 5 Home house 11 Mill Quarter 10 Jacksons 6 Mallory over the Mill 2 Claibornes K W^m 14 Easten Shore 7 & 1 for New Kent in Hanover I coud not get a price to my Likeing & Shipd it on board Peterson the Hole if John Valletine let us have his is 78 Hhd^s Shipd on board Peterson; I have turnd of two of the overseers the one at the white House & the other at Brick House & the two that I Intend to replace has Large families one has 6 Children & the other 5 tho they agree to take 600 w^t meat & a grass beef at the fall They are two men that I am well acquainted with in respect to there Honesty which if you dont Dislike there family being two

Large believe they will Answer very well tho think it my Duty to inform you before I finally agree with them, wch if you dislike will be off & get others I have agreed for 6 Spin^e wheels at 10/th wheel to have Spin^e done at Every Quarter in Bad weather & times when the wenches Lays in, & at Rockahock there is a wench that is Kept for Spin^e & has been all this year aspin^e 47th ^{she} wool & says that M^r Washgton order^d that shoud spin no more than 3^{lb} a week & old Nanny wont Spin a thread & Says her Mistress left her only to Sew wch we have a great deal of wool to Spin from the Easten Shore for I cant sell it for more than a bit a th & think we had better have it Spun up & wove for the wenches & children if you think Proper, & this wench Nanny has Raisd 71 Turkeys Besides other Fowls of all Sorts & Says her Mistress allows of it please to apply to her & ^{let} me have y^r Directions how to Proceed in them Particulars there is Several Old wenches that might Spin for the Estate that cant work out one on the Easten Shore that might Spin that dont work out not 1/³,^d of her time only minds the Children — I send you inclosed Strattons agrmt with Vallentine in respect to the Ship on Mockon Island¹ which is a very Great dispute with

¹ An Agreement made between Joseph Valentine and John Stratton that the Afores^d Joseph Valentine is to put on Twenty Ewes and John Stratton forty Ewes for which they are to have the Wool of their Own Sheep the first year and Ever after to Divide Equally as long as they Can Agree and the Afore said John Stratton is to put on Twenty One head of Cattle for Which he is to find Water and Pasturage for the same & to Carry on and Bring off and Kill all Cattle that shall be Wanted Carried Or Kill'd by James Biggs and the aforesaid John Stratton is to have Liberty to put on any person or persons whom he shall Chuse

Test by

WILLIAM JACKSON }
WILLIAM BIGGS }

JOSEPH VALENTINE

JOHN STRATTON, SEAL

Stratton & me he wants his 40 Ews. & to let me have the 20 & then divide the Ball^e after Lett^s the man that he Put on take the Sixth Part with some ^{the man} ~~he~~ Put on for Look^s after them this man was owing of Stratton money as I am informd & he agreed with this man if he woud Put on some Small Quantity that he shoud have the 6th Part for Look^s after them without the consent of M^r Vallentine only the consent of Biggs wch Stratton has Bought the sheep yearly of this man untill he has got Paid as I am informd now whether I must Continue the Man & let him find Part & believe he will take the 8th Part for Look^s after them & is to Bring of & carry on all the Cattle & Bring of what Ever we Want of for his Living there & Ive got Jacksons Deposition in Regard to the agrement^s ^{Stratton &} with Vallentine tho it was not mentiond Particularly that he Looked upon it that when Ever a Division they were to Divide Equally the other Says he will ^{wch are the two witnesses to y^e agrement^s} Swear the Same, ^{as witnesses} ~~tho~~ Stratton Says he has three that will Swear to the Contrary tho they did not assign the agrement^s [^] I am a going upon Receiving y^r Answer to my Letter to the Easten Shore in order to have it finishd & the Sheep Divided as the Lambs were two Small & the weather two hot when I was over or Shoud Endeavourd to have finishd when I was over the man that is on the Island Bears the Carecter of a very Honest man tho Stratton at this time has a very Great Dislike to him & wants him turnd off his name is John Handby But from the Carrecter that other People gave him I thought to continue him if you was agreable as there must be some one to look after

the Stock or they woud Be all ^{by the Watermen} Killd_^ Stratton wants to rent the Place But I told^{him} _^ I chose to make tryal my Self Before we woud Rent it; as for an Invoice you wrote to me for I am at this time at a loss to^{know} _^ what we have in already & as you have a list of Every negro & the Invoice of what came in this Year imagined you knew Better than I did what woud Serve them tho the Calculation to Every Grown fellow & wench woud be 3 Ells of Bro Lin^s to Shirt or Shift, & 5 yards of Cotton to suit for^{a wench or fellow} _^ there is a number of the negroes that has applyd for Shirts that had but one Last year & am informd by the overseers that there Shirts was always so small in General that they were even of Little or no Service to them

I have got a mill[w]right to come & View the mill & ^{he} _^ Says she must Be Rebuilt that^{she} _^ is not Sufficient to Hold a head of water & has given me a Bill of Scantling & after I have the timber Brought in place he will work with our Carpenters at £3-15⁹ month till I get her done I had a notion of haveing Patched up but he thinks its runing of a great Risk so have concluded to have her Rebuilt if you think Proper & there Will Be want^s A p^r of Mill Stones for the wheat mill

you desire to know How our Crops are^{frequently} _^ when I wrote to you Before they were Extreamply Likely But at this time they are much to the Contrary for we hant had a rain to wet the Ground 1¹/₂ Inches since last thursday was 4 Weeks that our Tob^o has moult-erd Prodiously at Bottom & fird away with the Dry

weather; & they are as much to the Contrary up at the new Kent Quarters they are full Wet up there, that if there woud come Rain now in a few days it woud be of Great service both to Tob^o & Corn for our Crops below,

In selling our corn below people dont care to take because I dont care to take there money by count they Say it has always been taken in that way & Others in Neighbourhood take money by count, therefore dont care to do it without you'll take it of me in the same way which is takeing Pistoreens & as the rest of the Neighbours does it, I think we had better take it in that way. ^{for I trade but Slowly} _____ as to the Bro Lin^s & Cotton I ve had no kind of Mem^o of what came in & I take it out the Bales no faster than we make Use of it as the Store house is much Pesterd wth Leather Salt & Iron &c y^t I had not Room to take the goods out only as we made Use of them, y^t I dont know What has came in tho am Doubtfull there wont be Linning Enough as there is Several of the People that has had Shirts out as they had but one this winter which was oblige to give them another & we were short of Broad Hoes & if y^e could not have Spared ^{out of y^r Store} us some must been oblige to abought I shoud a made an Exact List of the Hole but have been so very Ill with the fever & Ague y^t I am Scarce Able at this time to set up But hope as you have an Exact List of negroes you can make out the cloath^s & tools & Nails the same Quantity as came in this year I believe will do another tho I think it a good way to have a plenty as it woud be Bad to buy Hose at there

Extravagant Prices — & as to the other Materials I send you a list of what I can Recollect — please to Excuse my desireing you to put y^r Self to so much Trouble, I woud have waited till I got better but did not know but it might make a Material Difference with you wch was Willing to let you know how Every thing was as quick as posable & upon receiving y^r Answer if you cant conveniently do it if I Get able will let you have a list of the Hole but in case you shoud send By a Rough Draft for two much you may depend on the Greatest care Being taken of it, at a rough Calculation 896 Ells ozn^s & 544 y^{ds} Cotton

I have Shipd to Norfolk on board of Chrosia Graves Vessel 50 Barrels of corn from the New Kent Quarters which he tells me he can get me 14/ Cash or 15/ Ap^l pay & he is to Engage yours at y^r Quarter in King William & what there is to Spare at the Highest Price he can Get But did not know how to direct him in Respect to the price which you might chuse the cash or to give the C^r which you l please to inform me he is now gone to Norfolk with mine & 200 of M^r Foster Webbs M^r George Webb wants him to take his^{but} I had engaged him — & he tells me Col^o Bassett has gone to Norfolk to make Sail of his I cant Get more for the Easten Shore corn than 13/6 & that M^r Wilkins who Lives very near the Place has offerd & have waited a great while in order to see if it woud not Rise, the Market, but dont perceive it does in any other way than as I write you above what Narrow Hoes you send for Please to write for them to be Larger for they are so small

that they are of Little or no Service being so very Sick ant able to write any more

& conclude Y^r M^o Hble Serv^t

JAMES HILL

PS I wanted to a known if you woud chuse y^t.
I shoud Buy wheat at 5/ ⁹/₁₀ Bush^l for what we shall
Want to Sew after Sew^t what the Estate makes or to
make Tob^o untill we can Raise Grain of our own. —

Likewise if I must dispos^e of the oats upon the
Easten Shore or Intend y^r for y^r own Use

FROM COLONEL EDMUND PENDLETON.

DEAR SIR

I have your fav^r by M^r Manly, who I think has a very good right to the 2400 acres of Land called Hallows Marsh, but must bring a writ of right, being barr'd of an Ejectment, For which he is luckily just within time, & I shall order it out immediately, I forget whether I spoke to M^r Mason or not, & therefore he says he will write to him immediately.

I left your papers with M^r Attorney in May, to consider of the Point, w^{ch} is of consequence & necessary to be settled by us previous to drawing your Answers, whether the proceedings are not to stop during the Infancy of Mas^r Custis, as his Real Estate seems to be the Fund out of which the demand, if recovered, is to be satisfied. On this we propose a consultation in October when we meet, & then if the result makes an Answer proper it will be drawn & filed — In the mean time, I suppose the Pl^{ts} Counsel

is impatient & has taken out a New Attachment to quicken Our Motions, which is of no consequence.

I beg you will not suppose I have been inattentive to the suit, ~~Pr~~ Account of Fees, in which you have been very Liberal For what I have hitherto done & to drawing the answer, which, if that is resolved on in October, shall be done immediately after by

Sir

Your mo. ~~hble~~ Serv^t

EDM^d PENDLETON

Aug^t 31. 1772.

FROM MR. HUGH STEPHENSON.

DEAR SIR

I Received yours of 2d of June and am a very sorry I Mist Seing of you as I Went to Col^o Samuells Washingtons in order to weigh upon a talke about this Matter on Thursday Morning and Mist of you I should have Came to M^r Warnar Washington to you but Meeting with M^r John Aris Who told Me you was Left the County and as I had Not the Money it wase useless to folow you and thrugh the bad management of My people when I wase over the Mountains Last fall have had all My Tobacco Refused which I thought to have Made you a payment out of and as I must Acknowledge you have Ever been a frend to the family and have Endulged us verey Much and I hope as you have Endulged us So Long you Still will for bare a Little Longer and My Mother and My Selfe will Make you all the payment we Can by the first of october

there wase 40 Bushells Sead wheat that wase Deliv-
erd to Edward vilot to soe which M^r Lound wash-
ington promised to give Credit on the bond for that
is Not done when william Crawford Coms down he
will pay you part of the Bond and My Mother and
Selfe will Make you up all we Can against that time
and you May depend on the hole by the first of March

I am dear Sir your Most Hble Serv t

Sep^r 12th 1773

HUGH STEPHENSON

FROM DOCTOR JOHN CONNOLLY.¹

PITTSBURGH Septemb^r 18th 1772.

DEAR SIR.

Since I had the pleasure of seeing you here, some
apparent favorable Circumstances induced me to
Revisit the Western World, & cursorily to feast upon,
the various Novelties afforded, in so ample a Specu-
lative Field. —

In my Return from the Illinois I could not refrain
from accompanying Maj^r Hamilton & the other Gent^l
on a Visit to the great Licks, where the ELEPHANT'S
Bones render them more particularly Remarkable ;

¹ This letter is thus indorsed by Washington. In a narrative of his imprisonment (*Penn. Hist. Mag.*) Connolly says, "Though I had obtained a lieutenant-colonel's commission under his Majesty, yet whenever they had occasion to mention me in their resolves and public proceedings, they wrote plain John Connolly, without the least mark of distinction, or affected to call me Doctor, thereby bringing to the remembrance of those who knew me, that it was once intended I should pursue the practice of physic, if that were any disgrace, and insinuating to the world at large, that a Doctor would not have been in such a situation, had he not been a busy factious person." By biographers and historians in general Connolly is referred to as a physician, not a soldier. He came originally from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and afterwards settled in Augusta County, Virginia. He was very active during Dunmore's war, and in the boundary question between Pennsylvania and Virginia. Connolly was a most aggressive loyalist, and was a prisoner during all the first part of the Revolutionary War.

& as they were all employed in collecting Curiosities agreeable to their respective inclinations, I just stumbled upon the Tooth I now present you with, begging your Acceptance thereof, as a Testimonial of my Regard for your Person, & those Abilities contributing to the Protection, & formerly to the Reduction of this extensive & valuable Territory. —

As some Account of the place may be (perhaps) satisfactory to yourself, as well as to your Friends, I shall ^{attempt} giving you as instructive an Idea of its appearance, Situation & as my confined knowledge may permit, & leave you (Sir) & the interested Enquirers into these abstruse matters to ascertain the true Species of these Animals, the course of their Route into that Country, & suchlike Relative Speculations, as must naturally arise in the Breast of the inquisitive, from so extraordinary a PHENOMENON. About twenty five Miles below the great Miamis River, East of the Ohio, & at the entrance of a small Creek you will perceive a Path, which by pursuing Easterly leads you into plainer & larger Roads, untill having continued the same Course a Mile, or perhaps better, you find yourself conducted by a large well beaten Way, thro a most delightfull Country, to the Licks, in my Opinion about four Miles from the Ohio. —

These Licks (so much frequented by Buffaloe at present) are an Assemblage of a Variety of Springs (the head sources of the small Creek already mentioned) tho not currently discharging the Water as generally happens, but slowly oozing thro the Earth it becomes strongly impregnated with nitrous or

saline particles & nearly resembles the Washings of a dirty Frazil,¹ communicating a Salt Taste to the Tongue when applied. The Lick particularly where the large Bones are now found, is the most Westerly One; having a high reddish Bank upon the West, in the sides of which you may perceive a number of Bones, of different sizes, variously projecting. — The black Mud forming the Lick, may contain near half an Acre, of a glutinous & oily-like substance, so that unwieldy as these Animals must have been, no doubt became so effectually engulfed, that all attempts to extricate themselves became^{fruitless}, & thus accounts for their general destruction at this place. What confirms me in this Opinion, was my incautiously attempting to run a-cross the Lick, to secure a large Bone on the opposite side, when I found the Way impracticable; being so bogg'd that it was not without Assistance I made my Road back again. —

I discovered an under Jaw very little affected by Time with all the Teeth perfectly secure. This was really a Curiosity, & could not fail giving One an Astonishing Idea of the vast Body it helped to constitute. An Officer of my Acquaintance earnestly requesting it, I was prevailed upon (tho not without Reluctance) to part with my property —

I have seen Doctor Hunter's Lectures upon some of the Bones sent to the Royal Society by Col! Croghan & Cap! Gordon; in which He calls them the PSEUDO ELEPHANT & says such are yet found in different parts of Siberia, but rather abruptly concludes,

¹ Anchor ice.

by affirming the whole Race to be now extinct. It would be construed presumption in Me to question the Authority of so judicious a Man, however inconsistent with the general Operations of Nature so extraordinary an Assertion may appear. It is certainly thus far authenticated, that no such Animals are at present found upon the Continent. — I must not omit informing you, for the entertainment of your Philosophic Friends, that about 8 hundred Miles up the MISSOURI River similar Bones have been found, tho' not the appearance of more than One SKELETON. Thus the SPECULATIVE may have some Reason to determine their Course from the Westward. We find that HANNIBAL in his expedition against the ROMANS was particularly delayed in conveying them over the RHONE on his March to ITALY by Bridges &c: how then these Animals could have passed the Mississippi & Ohio Rivers only, exclusive of looking so far back as a supposed Strait between the Eastern part of Asia & the S. W. parts of this Continent added to the known obnoxiousness of a Northern Clime, will no doubt be puzzling to the most refined Enquirers. These Matters I refer to the more penetrating Researches of inquisitive Investigators, & just beg leave to touch another View.

It is astonishing to me that notwithstanding your Colony of Virginia is honored with a Number of Spirited & enterprizing Gentlemen you have so long neglected an Acquaintance with the true value of this Western Country. I am sensible that the cultivation of Tobacco could be no where more advan-

tageously carried on, than in different parts of West Florida Government; & I am at this present acquainted with large Bodies of Land unappropriated, & excellently adapted to that purpose, open to a Market by a very good, at least tolerable Navigation for Boats of any Burden. Any Association amongst a Number of Your Friends to send down Negroes with proper Managers by the Ohio, would not only laudably promote & encourage the Settlement, but it must also tend to your very great emolument.— I must ask your pardon for thus communicating my unsolicited Opinion, & can only apologize by assuring you, that it proceeds from the great passion I have for facilitating a Settlement in that quarter; which must rise with so many grand Advantages. — The NATCHEZ is now flourishing fast, & as I plainly see what may be effected, I sigh to find matters out of my power, & the few Abilities I am possessed of, obscured, by irresistible Necessity urging Me to Pursuits of a different Nature. — I have already exceeded the Bounds of a Letter; I must therefore after requesting your forgiveness for (possibly) intruding upon your Time for Matters of more Moment, beg leave to subscribe myself with much Respect

D^r Sir

your Friend & most obed: Servant

JOHN CONNOLLY

N: B Permit me to present my
 to y^r. Lady
 Compliments altho I have not the
 happiness of her Acquaintance. }

FROM JAMES DAVIDSON.

LONDON 29th sept^r 1772

SIR

I had the Honour of Receiving your Letter with instructions concerning your Saines I shall always pay due attention to the contents I persuade myself you'll say I have fulfilled your instructions given me in these 3 saines which I heartily hope will come safe to your Hands, & hope at the same time they will be in time for the intended fishery — am not Afraid but they will meet with your Approbation And if you Should see any alteration wanting if you'll be so Obliging as to send a line in the same Channel it Shall be attended to with Great Care. Your order his for the Corks to be put on flat ways I have only put them on upon the 65 fath Saine for these Reasons we have tryd that Method before w^h every other invension for the Satisfaction of our Fishermen here but they have assur'd us they really do not bear the net up so well for they are Oblig'd to be tyd on so tight that the twine Cuts y^m and are much apter to break and after all in Drag^s the Net they will Swim Sideways. Now S^r you'll readily see the Above inconveniences I have also put 6 floats in the middle 2 together for to Shew the Center of the Net Like-wise the Length of Nett^s 120 ^{fath} ~~yds~~ for the 80 fathom the other 2 in proportion I now enter upon Tanning this you may Assure yourself they are pritty well wore if you have them Tand for we are Obligd to Hawle them in and out to take the Tan & after

that hawl^e them about to Get them thoroughly dry before we Can possible pack y^m or else they w^d soon rot And among the Hundreds of Saines I sent Abroad Last Year or this I only tand one besides yours therefore have not tand any of these I think the $\frac{3}{4}$ Inch Mash^es that I have put in in the middle of the Netts this y^r will be a Cure for the maladie you mention of the herrings hang^e in the Mash for last year I only put Inch Mash^es which upon Examination you'll soon perceiv^e therefore S^r I intreat the Honour of a Line wether or no the 2 above $\frac{3}{4}$ Mash^es ansr the purpose I have taperd them away at the ends too Inch & $\frac{1}{2}$

I am Sir Your most
Obliged Humble
Servant

JAMES DAVIDSON

FROM GILBERT SIMPSON.¹

^R
HONOURED S^R

October : ye : 5 : 1772

I am informd you have not purchast M^r Fairfax^s and Thral^{kele} Lands the which I was in hopes you had for then I should have Expected to have Leest Sum more a joining to my loot which is Quite two Small as it is but S^r I hope thes lines will Find you in perfect good helth and bee kindly Received by your hon-

¹ Washington's *Ledger* shows business dealings with Gilbert Simpson, Senior and Junior, from 1760 to 1787, and a partnership entered into with "M^r Gilbert Simpson" in March, 1773, the accounts of which were not finally settled until September, 1784.

² Elijah Threldkeld?

our it is now I am going to inform you S^r of what I have been perposeing and thinking of perposeing to you as you have a plenty of good lands lying out at red Stone and unsettled I would undertak to Settle it in pardnership with you on terms of this kind which is for me to find three or foor workeing hands and as many breeding mairs and the same number or more of Cows and other Stock in perption S^r if you Should think proper to Join this with the Same Quantity of hands and Stock and Could Confer the Charge of the Same to me I should think it my greatest duty to discharge the same with the utmost Care and onesty and as the land is so good for indion Corn and meddows I make no dout but it would in a Five years add Sumthing^{more} to your Fortune and Reasonable Compency of Good liveing to my Self S^r if these lines Should have the good Sucksees to find you as I hope they will in a little time I pray you would Send me answer by the first opertainty So S^r I remain

your humble Servant

GILB^T SIMPSON

LOWDOWN

FROM ROBERT MCMICKAN, ESQ.

KINGSTON JAMAICA 13 Nov^r 1772

SIR

Want of opportunity Since closing the Sale of your Herrings has delayed the remittance, which^{shall} go by first Vessel to Alexandria.

Flour at this time is in tolerable demand here,

What I have Seen of yours by the Fairfax was not of the best quality & I believe Sold not for more than Common flour. M^r Adams Sails for the Bay of Honduras in a few days —

If you intend exporting your Own Flour, you should endeavour to push out a Vessel in the Winter & another as early in the Spring as possible, during the Winter there is no Supply from Philadelphia & I apprehend your River is not so much frozen up but that Vessels may Sail. —

The French & Spaniards buy great Quantities of flour here & will give 12^d to 18^d a C^t for it more, if in Casks that contain 160 a 180 Lb W^t than, if in Casks containing 200^{lb} & upwards — the reason of this is, that they ^{Sell} it at so much a Barrel & not by the Lb or C^t Therefore should you Ship any considerable Quantities of flour here, let one half of it be in small Barrels. I am with much respect Sir

Your mo^o: Obd^t Serv^t

ROB^t M^c MICKAN.

Prices curr^t

Sup^r fine flour 25 @ 27/6

Com^a d^o 20 @ 22/6

Bread 20/

Corn 4 @ 4^s/6

Bla Eyd Pease 5 @ 6/3

Pork 85 @ 95/

Barr from 25 a 30 £ ¹⁰/₁₀₀ Ton

Exch^a 40 ¹⁰/₁₀₀ C^t

FROM MR. JOHN BAYNES.¹PISCATAWAY 14th Nov: 1772

SIR

The 23^d of this Month I must Attend at our Court, therefore it will not be in my power to meet at Fredericksburgh. But whatever is Concluded on by you and the other Gentⁿ that may be there, I will on Acc^t of the Heirs of James Towers,² be agreeable to And what Money may be wanting for there part towards defraying any Expence I will Advance for them, when I see you to know how much it is I am

Your very hum Serv^tJOHN BAYNESFROM MR. JOSEPH DAVENPORT.³S^RNovember 22^d

according to Col^o Washingtons Directions I went to Frederick Town in order to inquire into the price of hemp and as I immagined a Sample would be necessary (and I wanted Some Trifles from there) I took 100^{lb} for w^{ch} I got but 40/ and was informed that the Markett was not till Towards Spring — & as M^r Cary has wrote to the Col^o I need Say no more. only they liked the hem Very well. — — I received the Letter you Sent by Carney tho I did not See him therefore I could not answer it by him however the hogs

¹ Indorsed by Washington, "prom^t to pay Tower's Exp^t tow^d the Ohio Lands."

² The representative of James Towers [Lieutenant in the Virginia Regiment] received 6000 acres of land granted under the proclamation of Governor Dinwiddie. — BROCK.

³ Addressed to "M^r. Lund Washington."

are up There is 13 about a year old that I do not believe will weigh over 70 apiece 3 Sows that are Large will weigh 170 apiece 20 Shoats and Sow that has 9 piggs that She is now weaning which I Suppose Carney will have. I have been for Some time Engaged about my Corn (have made 132 $\frac{1}{2}$ hoghseads & shall have it lofted by Monday night) So that I have Broke but about 700th hemp it is all Rotted but that w^{ch} Bore Seed and that is now in But I cannot pretend to Say what Quantity will be made nor when I Shall be done Breaking the people have Something improved and believe I can break 1000 or 1200 Every fair week but at that Rate I Shall not be done by Christmas and I am Sure it will be high time Should be away by that time am as anxious to Get to the place intended for me as can be and Shall use all imaginable despatch to get done here Voilett's¹ Crop of Wheat 670 Bush¹ I Shall go to thrashing mine immediately & Mr Little^{at the Bloomery} has agreed to give 3/ & Receive it on the plantation if it is approved of and I know that a great many Sells for 3/ & delivers at the Mills — — —

Connell has Brought down the Tobacco at last & I confess I am ashamed it was not done before notwithstanding I do not think I could have done it before without prejudice to Col^o Washington I really did get no hasle nuts the Reason we had a Very Early frost w^{ch} Occationed them to Drop Sooner then common. tho I sent my people out one day when any one that had not been in the Barrens would have

¹ Edward Violet, overseer at Bullskin.

thought the might have been plenty. I had the ague too bad to go with them & they Returnd and Said the nuts were all fallen.

I have been to Rutherfords Miller and he Blames a Deputy for the pacage of flour what is there ~~Shall~~ be he says Shall be Repack'd and agrees that the wheat was Merchantable and that the acc^t of flour Shall be agreeable to Such and will See that it is.

Am S^r y^r Very Hbl Ser^t

JOSEPH DAVENPORT

P. S I can get no body to
hire that understand breaking hemp

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

Decem^r the 2^d 1772

DEAR SIR,

When I parted with You on Pohic You did not seem inclinable to take my Land there, and I have therefore been bargaining with M^r Henderson about it as I owe a debt to the Store in Alexandria: But as I did not know but what You might come to some Terms with M^r Mercer and in that case choose to purchase mine, I chose to wait till your return before I shewed the Land to M^r Henderson, that if you thought proper you might have the preference; for I think myself under many obligations to you. M^r Fairfax has been unable to travel so that I could not get the Deed acknowledg'd on her part before Witnesses going to the Gen^l Court. But would not the Relinquishment of Dower before the Justice be sufficient?

I hope to hear that M^r. Washington & Family have
returned in good Health. I am D^r sir

y^r. most obed^t. Serv^t

BRYAN FAIRFAX.

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

SIR

I wrote you by V Crawford I was indebted to Mess^{& Son}
Jacob Hitte^a a Sum of mony which I have not the
mony to pay and afraid I Shall be Sued for it

If you can answeer they Sum in the inclosed order
and Charge it in my Wages for Survaying the Land
of the officers it would much oblidge Sir your Most
Hum^e. Sarvant

W., CRAWFORD

Decem^r 3rd 1772¹

FROM EDWARD JONES.²

SIR

I Rec^d your Letter of y^e 4th. Instant in which I find
you Desire an Exact Account of all things Relating
to my proceedings Since I Have Been your Overseer
&. In the first place you Inquire if I have done Loft-
ing & prizing which I have not But if weather Per-

¹ Indorsed by Washington, "Order for paying Jn^e. Hite £100—"

² An entry in Washington's *Diary* dated September 13, 1771, reads, "Agreed with Edw^d. Jones to continue Overseer at the place my Mother lives at who is also to be constant in his attendance on the People he looks after (five in number) for which he is to be allowed the Seventh of Corn Wheat & Tob^e. — He also is to have two Horses added to those two he already has."

mit I Shall Be Done by the Latter End of Next week as for what Quantity I Shall have of Each I Cannot tell as yet But I Shall Know by then your fellow Comes up again But I will Safely Secure the whole M^r Powel & I am to Carry the Hogs Down this week and Concerning what you wrote about the Larger hogs I told M^r Powel as for the other Stock I will take Care of as Long as I Stay — & the fodder is Safely Secured & as for the Rails & out houses I do not Intend to burn them Nor Let any Body do it if I Can help it but I hope Sir you do not Desire me to watch them a nites I paid your Mother 5£ 10/ Last fall She had 2 Shotes and 3 Lambs in the Summer a Large Shote. I had 4 Barrels of Corn of her and when it Came to be mesured it was But 17 Bushels the Rest I have not had an acc^t of as yet But you Shall know the whole in my next — I think Sir I have Been as perticular in Every thing as the Exactness of your Letter Could Direct or you Could Desire I add no more but Remain your Most Hum^l Ser^t

EDWARD JONES —

December y^e 7th. 1772

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

SIR/

your man got down on monday last & I was up the country at The Quarter & did not Get down till fryday night & when I got Home found y^r Man Giles there & after mak^g inquiry found your Letter was deliverd agreeable to your Instructions But

the Gent could not get the Answers ready till, Satter-day

& in respect to M^r Fra foster¹ whiles I was up the country I sent one of the overseers to him to know if he reced y^r Letter[&] he was from home & his wife told the overseer he had reced y^r M^r Geo Webb whom I delivered it to Soon after you came away, But another of the overseers Met with M^r Foster after send^s to his house & he desird to know if I had any oppertunity of send^s up to you that he had got fifty Pounds of the money & had no oppertunity of send^s it to You & as Giles is down have thought Proper to send him By for one of the overseers to go with him to receive the money & send it up to you, but have been at a Loss to know whether I could intrust him with so Large a sum or not as you did not write for him to bring it — tho I Shall write to M^r foster that if any Accident shoud happen that the money does not get safe to hand y^r he must Stand to the Loss of it or send a man with it up to You, for you were in want of it, Ive not got the w^{ts} & numbers of the Tob^o we have been so Extremely busy ab^t Get^s our Corn in & my being up the Country the Inspecters dont attend the ware house Every day that I have not had it in my Power to get them yet for I have been up at your Quarter endeavour^s to have the Ball of the Hogs got up for they have got 23 of them & could find no more till a day or two before I got up the overseer got one of his Neighbours to Assist him Serch the Marsh & they Started two of y^r As they suppose but got nare

¹ Francis Foster.

a one of them & one of the Neighbours was in Serch of his out in the woods & came upon Eight as he adjudged to be y^m wth they have not been got yet the overseer tells me he has been in Serch of them seven days But cant find y^m, & my being from home at the time of the oyer Court have had no oppertunity of wrighting to Biggs ab^t the oats But expect a vessell every day from the Eastern Shore for the corn Corn I sold to M^r Wilkins the Ball^{ce} of old Corn that I was tell^s you of M^r Wilkins has Never Sent for it yet, & ^{if} he comes or Sends Shall have an oppertunity of wright^s tho its a matter of Doubt with me whether Biggs can get a vessell to go that distance with so Small Quantity—As they are not Allowd to take any in but y^m for several of the Easten Shore men has told me that the freight of so Small Quantity woud not be worth while going that Distant, tho will write to him to send them immediately if they are not Sent

When you was down you did ^{not} conclude what you woud Have done in Respect to the wheat mill Stones —

I have had at your Plantation 4 beeves Put in corn field & Several Mutton which are now fat & have directed the overseer to send them Down Expect^s to get a better Price for them in town then he coud up the Country But Roger Tandey was at worke in town with [manuscript torn] Carpenters & informs me that the muttons was so Plenty in [manuscript torn] this Co^t that they sold at 7/6 which I shall endeavour to have y [manuscript torn] Stopt till the Meet^s of the Merc^{ts} 25

Jan^r I expect to make a very good Crop at y^e Plantation in K William tho they hant finishd Get^s the corn in nor wont till Next week

I have got the wench down from the White house that was sick now tak^s a means from Doctor Pasteur she is Troubled with the Colleck is the cheafest of her compl^t

The Little negroes at y^e Plantation is without cloath^s & if you chuse to have them any Thing Bought Please to write by the first oppertunity as their is but very Little Roles in y^e Store not Enough to give them Shirts & Shifts or whether you intended to give them any thing er not our People has not near Enough Bro Lin^s nor Cotten to Cloat hy^m. I have got 40 lbs Bro Lin^s & 20 y^{ds} Cotten & Expect must get near as much Lin^s agⁿ to give them to make them two a piece

I have not reced any money for the Corn Chroshea Graves sold of y^r nor dont Expect it till the Meeting of the Merc^t the 25 of Jan^r —

I have Been sadly Plagud to get M^r Averends Answers to y^r Letters — I wrote Expect^s without fail to get the answers Satterday But M^r Everend being from home his boys sent Back, the Answer was sent by some one Else & thought it did not seem fesable & sent Back to M^r Everend & it was not sent & then his boys coud not be found wch obliges me to send on ^{Sunday} Monday morn^s M^r Craigs Answer I understand By Stanhope Vaughn is inclosed with M^r Blairs —
from y^r M^o Humble Servant

J^A^S HILL

Sunday Morn^s 13 Dec^r 1772

FROM MR. FRANCIS BAKER.

QUEENSTOWN Dec y^r 15th 1772

SIR

At the time Capⁿ Posey was in this Goal, his Son St^t Lawrence was in a Starving Condition about the Town from mear pitty I took him into my House, and a Small time after Sent him with my own Children, to the Free school, where he Continued till his Father Left this place for Virginia, who then told me the Boy should be under my Care till he himself or his friends sent for him; till which time it was my intention to Continue him on in Learning which he took fast, having a Good Master, But to my great surprize his Father was no sooner gone than an order was produc'd, By M^r W^m Miner from the Captain to take the Boy to his House, where he has been Ever since, in Character of Barr keeper, Hostler &c. Subject to Catch the Vices & manners of the Meaner sort of people, of which the House is often full, as I keep a Publick House, I could have had him myself in the same way, But seeing the Inocence of the Boy, I could not think of giving him a Tavern Education, he Cost me while at School £10 in Board & other things, & for his Age when he went to M^r Miner there was not his match for Writing, any Merchant would gladly have such an Assistant, I would not trouble you with this Information But from hearing you are a Friend to the Boys family—and that Charity will Excite you to make known whoever is, acquainted with the matter, as his Continuance a Year Longer may be his total Ruin—I am Sir,

Your Very Hble Ser^t—FRS BAKER

FROM COLONEL EDMUND PENDLETON.

D^R SIR

I will pay you the Sum of Four hundred pounds. which my Nephew Informs me . he is to give you for the Land he Purchased of you in Frederick. I am.

D^r SirY^r Mo. Obed^t H^{ble} Serv^tEDM^D PENDLETONDecember. 19th 1772.

 FROM GILBERT SIMPSON.
DECEMBER : 26 : 1772thS^R

I Received yours of the 18 of this instant by the hand of M^r Crawford and I am agreeable to your perposeal in makeing of Corn the next Summer prvided there Could be Corn got to Live on which I doubt of at that time of year but you and I Shall be more able to judg of that in ^{the} month of Febuary if M^r Crawford Coms in as he Say he will and if any goos out there must goe more than two for I perpose to ^{goe} my Self and my Negro fellow and you must Find one fellow and one wench I shall stand good in labor against ~~against~~ one [of] them for one Summer for I should not Care to trust a thing of that ConciquinC with any Common person and there mu[s]t [be] a wagon imployd for to go out for I should Chuse to take tools of Every Sort Sutable for plantation business and to Carry Two of ^{my} horssees and two

Cows and Calves and other NesCesryes S^r there is one thing in the artickels of your ag[r]ement and mine which is not as I perposed to you or Elce I mistake the mening of it which is that my Family was to hold the plantation 21 years after my decees but it looks to me as tho it was but for that Teerm in my lif and theres which is not according to my Expectation and the Shortnes of your Leeses has put the people much out of heart of Setling your Lots which they was very intent to have don but S^r I hope you will Consider that the time is two Short as the Rents is high S^r I should be glad to see you or to Receive a line or two from you the First opportunity I shall Com down to you when M^r Crawford Coms if I should not Chaceⁿ to see you before So no more but Remain your humble

Servatⁿ GILB^T SIMPSON
LOUDOWN

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

WILLIAMS BURGH Jan^y 1st 1773

SIR/

I this moment recd your letter & in answer to it the reason why I have neglected sending up this good Spell of weather I have endeavoured to make as good a Collection as Possable but Am disappointed altogether only the £60 of Col^o Phill Johnson which I shall send up But am doubtfull I shant make a Collection to answer the Demands ag^t the Estate & my wages I have waited to make Sail of

my Porke But am Likely to get no more then 20/ 3/ 4
Hundred & that not payable till Ap^l & have endeavoured to make What advantage I could of the good weather in finish^d the the Crops to get in readiness to settle your Late purchase of M^r Blackes I shall Settle Both plantations & to get in Readiness has Engaged my people so tightly y^t I could not well Spare the same for I have but Lately got my wheat fans & have been very Busy aheading out wheat & have not finished yet I shall send the people of a monday to Settle them plantations but am apprehensive M^r Black has told M^r Bat Dandridge he would give up a few of the Houses but that you Could not Expect him to Move at any rate as yet I have been up to his House in order to see what he intended But he was from Home, & I could by no means prevail on Roger Tande^y to go over & Must Send the young man over that Lived with me last Year who was the person I intended to a sent up for the Bull but was Doubtfull he would not be Back time enough to take place at Blacks Home House — I will send up as soon as Possable I can But on Receiv^d your Letter Shall endeavour to Collect those Sums agreeable to your Instructions & shall Make the greatest Despatch I possable can to send up tho it will be a Very Great Hurt to my Crop as I Expect they will be gone a good while & the Loss of the Horses as I expect I shall be obliged to let the Boy have a Horse as I think it will be too far for him to ride behind & am now much plagued with the tennant in Brick House Lott in Town as I am Doubtfull they wont throw me out of the Rent I have for some time been

Uneasy ~~for some time~~ & by makeing a bad Collection
& my Endeavouring to get the Business forwarded
so as to seat them places as Quick as Possable I
not well spare the people & Horses
coud[^] was the reason why I add not send; for I had
many Promises of money But have almost altogether
fell through in my Collection & am now in Hopes
of get^g some But my Business will not admit of my
waiting on them as often as they require but time
being Short & the Post Just going off conclude

Y^r M^o Hble Serv^t

JA^s HILL

F.S.

Please to Excuse Hast
& a very Sore thumb—

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

TOWLSTON Janry the 1st 1773

DEAR SIR,

M^r Muir has sent me an Account of the Charges
on the protested Bill which has run up very high.
As it will be very inconvenient to me to go from
home at this time I have inclosed a half Sheet in-
dorsed on which I shall be obliged to You to have
drawn the Set of Bills payable to me, and delivered
to the person M^r Muir may send for them. You may
have a Mortgage on any of my Lands as a Security
till the repayment of the whole money shall be done
from the Sale of the Land in which M^r W. Wash-
ington is concerned either at once or in small Pay-
ments as I happen to receive it. We had an Expec-

tation of receiving £500 Pensylvania Money each before this time, but according to Custom have been disappointed.

I am D^r Sir

Y^r most obed^t Serv^t

BRYAN FAIRFAX.

FROM MR. THOMAS NEWTON, JR.¹

NORFOLK Jan^r 11 - 1773.

Superfine flour from 15/6 to 16/8. & the Cash 1/8
 Common - D^r - 15/ - - - - D^r - D^r
 Biscuit Stuff - - 9/ to 10/ - - - D^r - D^r
 Herrings - - - 12/6 - 15/. few at market.
 Indian Corn - - 11/6 - 12/6 ♯ Barrell

SIR

Above is the prices current here at this time, if you incline to ship any thing this way I will endeavor to get the highest price going at the time I receive them. you must note that if we sell for ready money dollars pass at six shillings & what we contract for payable at the Courts in Williamsburg is received at the weight if in silver or gold. we have no encouraging markets just now either from the Eastward or West Indies but hope the adventurers will not lose. I am

Y^r Most Hbl^e Serv^t

THOMAS NEWTON JR^s

¹ Son of Thomas and Amy (Hutchings) Newton, grandson of George and Aphie (Wilson) Newton, was a merchant of very considerable influence in the borough of Norfolk. He was on the county committee in 1775; was appointed one of the board of naval commissioners, May, 1776; was for many years alderman; and in 1786 became mayor of Norfolk. He married Martha Tucker, and had two sons, George, a wealthy citizen of Norfolk, and Hon. Thomas Newton, representative in Congress for thirty years.

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

DEAR SIR

It is certainly expedient to remove M^r Custis to some Place of publick Education, and speedily. And when there is so noble, so princely an Institution of this sort, in his own Country, it is lamentable to Find there still shou'd be a Necessity for sending Him to Another. I had, as You know, been endeavouring to believe the many Stories We are perpetually hearing of the Mismanagement at W^m & Mary as partial & exaggerated: but, the Carefulness of your Enquiries on the Spot precludes all farther Doubt about the matter.

I can truly say, I do not differ from You in Opinion, but with Diffidence of the Rectitude of my own; nor wou'd I venture to mention my differing with You at all, had I not long ago experienced your Candor in allowing for the prepossessions or Prejudices of your Friends. I will therefore yet again take the Liberty of declaring my Opinion in favour of N. York, rather than Philad^a. It is but justice to premise, that I am not personally acquainted either with the one Place or the other. You, I believe, are; & can therefore better judge, whether what I say on the Report of others, be well or ill Founded.

Philad^a is a large, populous, thriving, commercial City: & so is N. York. The Former, is this only; the latter is more. It is inhabited by some People of the most considerable Rank & Fortune: it is a Place of the greatest Resort for Strangers of Distinction; it is the Head-Quarters of the Military; &

on all these Accounts, is, I am told, generally reckon'd the most fashionable & polite Place on the Continent. As a Situation, therefore, for a young Gentleman, who is to be Educated a little in the World, as well as in Books, it wou'd seem, that it deserves the Preference. In Fact, a little Residence in such a City is the best Substitute I know for the Tour that was once projected: as He stands a better Chance for receiving that Liberality of Manners, which is one of the best Uses of Travel, mixing occasionally with truly well-bred People. This, tho' I have not Leisure to pursue it Farther, is of some Importance in the Determination of this matter.

Confident that my Letter is for, & will be kept to, Yourself alone, I will not be afraid to speak out, tho perhaps I may be mistaken, persuaded that I shall be pardoned, if wrong. I wou'd not rashly reflect either on any Bodies of Men, or Individuals: what, therefore, I am about to say, must be read with great Candor, & large Allowances. From the best Observations I have been able to make on young Gentlemen educated in America, one general Fault is, that They come out into the World, furnish'd with a kind of smattering of Every Thing, &, with very few Exceptions, arrant Coxcombs. Were it not too invidious, I cou'd name to You Individuals, who are really clever, but hurt One by this silly Humour. And, I think, as Many have brought away this Sort of Spirit from the Coll: of Philad^a, as any other I have taken notice of, I know not a Fault one wou'd more earnestly wish to avoid; nor one, considering y^e Character & manners of your Ward, that You shou'd

more guard against. How far this may be owing to any peculiar Discipline, or Mode of Instruction in these Colleges, I presume not to say: certainly, however, the Fact is, as I have hinted, & I have heard the observation made by others as well as myself. That This is not also the Case with Respect to King's College in New York, is more than I have any authority positively to assert: I have, however, some Reason to believe, that it is not, at least, not in so great a degree. Most other Colleges are formed on the Plans of those in Scotl^d, Leyden, Gottingen, Geneva: W^m & Mary, & King's College resemble more Those of Oxford & Cambridge. In the Former, Men often may become Scholars, if They will; in the latter, They must often be made so, whether They will or no. The Presid^t of the Coll: of Philad^a, whose Abilities are unquestionable, was himself brought up in Scotland, in a less regular manner, than is the Fortune of Scholars in general: &, in spite of his great merit, This must be some disadvantage to Him, in the office He holds. By dint of superior Genius, He has himself arriv'd at Eminence in Literature, by a nearer Cut, as it were: but, the Bulk of Men, must be enforced to travel thither, along the beaten Track. It is therefore, in some sort, necessary that He who undertakes to guide Us, shou'd himself have travelled the Road He is to shew Us. The President of King's College is allow'd to be as sound & sensible a Scholar as any in America: He was first train'd up regularly in a large School in England, & afterwards completed his Education by a ten or twelve Years Residence in Oxford. — I do

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not, however, lay much Stress on the comparative Merits of the Professors: both of Those I have nam'd possess extraordinary Merit. But, were the Matter to be so determined, no Reason cou'd be given for his leaving his own Country, as I know very few better Scholars, than either M^r Camm, or M^r Johnson.

It is but Fair in Me, to advertise You, that I have, & long have had, a very warm & close Friendship with D^r Cooper, Presid^t of the N. York College, that He is my Countryman, & constant Correspondent, & that, moreover, I am under some Obligations to the Trustees of his College for an honorary Degree, They were pleased to confer on Me some time ago. How far, these Things may have bias'd my Judgement, You will judge better than I can. I profess, however, that I have not willingly suffered private Friendship or Attachment to warp my Judgement. And I the less suspect myself, inasmuch as I know, that the Dulanys & the Rev^d M^r Addison, by far the best educated Men, & best Judges of Education in this Province, agree, in this Matter, in Opinion with Me. The Last of these Gentlemen ^{proposes to} ~~will~~ give this least equivocal Proof of his Judgement on the Matter, the sending his own Son thither, his youngest, I mean, whenever the ill-Health of M^r Addison shall permit Him to take Him from Her. And, I think I have heard M^r Walter Dulany also talk of sending his youngest Son, tho M^r Dulany is, I believe, a Native of Philad^a, & has many Relations there.

The Difference in point of Distance, I shou'd ima-

gine too inconsiderable to deserve much Attention, even from a Fond Parent. He may write every Week, from the one Place as well as the other: & as his Visits neither can, nor ought to be very Frequent, a Day or two's difference in the Journey can make but little odds.

And now, my dear Sir, relying on your believing what I have said, to have been delivered with the best Intention, I beg Leave to refer the Determination of the Matter, where doubtless it ought to be left, entirely with Yourself. I have not now to inform You of my Regard For the Youth: his Welfare, believe me, is the only motive that I wish to influence my Judgement; and were I not persuaded, that That wou'd be more effectually promoted by sending Him to York rather than Philad^a I had never taken the Liberty of troubling You with this long Letter.

Whenever You have Finally determined the matter, I beg the Favour of You to let Me know: and, if it be for Philad^a, as I happen to have no personal Acquaintance with D^r Smith, for whose Character, however, I profess the highest Respect, I will give You the Letter You ask.

I have a Wish indeed, a strong one, to accompany You on this little Tour: the Indisposition of my Eye makes it almost absolutely necessary for Me to seek assistance somewhere, & which, They tell Me, can only be Found to the Northward. But, whether I shall be able to set my House in such order, as that my Absence so long may be dispensed with, is more than I can now judge. This only I know, that if I possibly can, I will.

A very disagreeable Controversy with two of our patriot Lawyers, which I was too easily persuaded to enter into, seems likely to cut Me out [of] a good deal of Work: This, however, if other Matters can be got over, is certainly not of moment enough to detain Me.

M^r. Boucher begs her aff. Comp^{ts} to M^r. Washington & Miss Custis, to which I request mine may be join'd.

I am, D^r sir, very truly

Y^r much obliged Fr^d & Serv^t

JONA^N BOUCHER

CASTLE-MAGRUDER

Jan^y the 19th 1773.

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

SIR/

I recd your letters in the office the 30th of Jan^y one dated y^e 21st Dec^r & the other Jan^y 11 which I understood had been in y^e Office for upwards of Eight or 10 Days as I did not Expect a letter from you till y^e meet^g of y^e Merc^{ts} made no inquiry & was up at y^e Quarters in y^e time however there was nothing very matererall in them only y^r Directions to M^r Everand which I went to immediately & delivered & his answer was that y^e Patents has been made out ever since the 15th of Dec^r to y^e Best of Memory [mutilated] to y^e Mill Stones we have no great deal of Custom in wheat [mutilated] have contrived to fix them so as to grind what wheat has Come without complaint as yet, tho they^{are} but sorry & hope to make

them do till we take her up to rebuild which will be the first dry Spell y^t comes for I have been geting in readiness to rebuild^{her} Every oppertunity the Carpenters er had since you was down I have^{had} all y^e framing got ready in case She Brakes or dry Spell for we have a very good run of Custom in corne provided of our mill did not waist her water in y^e manner She does, We could make a good deal of corne in a year by her but she waists near as much^{water} as she Treads with — I have Attended this Meet^s of Merc^t in order to receive the money for y^t corne & part of the Estates money for corne at y^e same time y^t was Sold ; but did not receive one farthing for there was so much bad money of y^e new koin y^t I could not receive it with Safety therefore woud not receive any for they woud not agree if it was bad to take it again therefore made the man underwrite his note of Hand to pay intrest till Ap^l — I have Sold the Porke for 27/6 W^t but have not recd the money for it yet M^r Dandridge has had of y^r 10 Hogs Gross 1536. to M^r Jo Fox 1098th W^t at what I sold owes below at wch is 27/6 w^t & M^r Tho^s Averce 337 W^t at same & 7 of y^e indifferentest the overseer had & what they weigh over 600 W^t he is to pay for & two has been catched out of y^e Marsh Since a sow & a Barrow & the Sow has Pigged since She has been put up to fatten that I dont Suppose we Shall make Sail of her this year I have had 14 Muttons & two Beeves of y^r Bro^t from y^e Quarter to make Sail of to this Meet^s but have sold but 6 mut^{ns} @ 6^d ^{pp} & one beef almost @ 4^d y^e others Still remain here unsold as they broke

up so soon could not get cent for y^m therefore keep an acc^t of what Hominy they Eat & charge you with it if its agreeable it should be so done please to let me know when ~~when~~ you write again — whether they should be Kept for the Next Market in Ap^l or whether you would have them sent back the young man Liv^s with me when you was down left me Just before Christmas So y^t I was obliged to Stay at home ab^t the time of Negroes Hireing that I had not time to look out for any for ditchers & one of the two that I Kept to ditch^s is run away & has been for Some time so that I have only one at it; which makes us go on but very Slow with our Ditch^s the fellow that is run away is namd Coachman Jamey which is one of the Greatest Raschals I ever lookd after in all my life he went of without an angry word or a blow from any one, which would Recommend it to M^r Custis & you to part with him in y^e same Manner you did the other for there is no get^s of him to do any thing more then he Pleases & he only corrupts the Rest & if you dont conclude to Sell him am determined to send him to the Easten Shore that he never Shall Strike a Stroke this side while I stay in the Estate & if he runs away there will have a p^r Iron Spancels for him if agreeable to you for its of no Use to put them on Here for the negro Blacksmiths

• in town will soon file them off wch he will ^{not} have the Same oppertunity on y^e Easten Shore & will have one Bro^t over in his Sted if agreeable to you & M^r Custis I cant write you any thing relative to y^e Quantity of Corne made at your Place for am Just agoing to have it measured but in Hopes it will turn out

very well for there appears to be a large Bulk of it I intended to ahad it measured When I was in New Kent But was obliged down with the Expectation of receiveing the money for y^e Corne sold at Norfolk — the inclosed is W^{ts} & numbers of the Tob^o Shipd last year they all went on board of one Ship wch was to Cary & C^o & one Hhd of Hanover Tob^o for the Rent of that Place wch Weighd 1010 W^t to y^e Best of Memory — tho by what I can learn am in Hopes of seeing you down for it is ^{very shortly} Expected the Assembly will be Calld together on Acc^t of this Counterfit money¹ — I had one five pound Bill & had Just Paid it away before they were found to be bad & did agree that if it was bad I woud take it again it has not come back yet So by that I am in Hopes its good or it woud abeen returned before this & think my Self very Lucky that I had made no better a Collection then I have for 2 thirds of the money is Counterfit now Circulating that I dont know well what to do in receive^s Unless its gold & Silver & a good deal of that is bad of Dollars y^t I dont know well what to do that if I have any in the House that is bad or shoud receive any bad hope you wont think of Making me Stand to y^e loss of it as I shall do for y^e best haveing nothing more at this time to add that I can rec^olect only am at this time ^{have} a very bad cold & pain in the Head & Remain y^r M^o Obe^t & Humble Serv^t

JAMES HILL-

YORKE COUNTY the 5th Feb^r 1773

¹ For Act of Assembly passed in March, 1773, in regard to the counterfeiting of paper money, see Hening, vol. viii. p. 651.

FROM ROBERT H. HARRISON, ESQ.

ALEXANDRIA Feby 12. 1773

SIR

I must premise to you, That I profess an Intire ignorance of the Laws and proceedings of the Courts of Justice, of the Island of Jamaica; and therefore what I say respecting any proceedings had or to be had there, or of any matter to depend upon the Laws and decisions there, is merely matter of con jecture, not founded in certainty.

If then the Laws and Court proceedings there, do not materially differ from ours, I think that M^r M^c Mickan by virtue of the Missive sent, with a State of your claim or case, might Institute a suit against M^r Adams in your name, to Oblige him to pay for the Fish sold here, and to account for the proceeds of the Flour; But that It will be advisable to send him a Power of Attorney, as the Missive It's more than probable would not be adjudged sufficient upon ~~the~~ a Trial to be had between you —

A Power of Attorney Executed here by you before a Credible person, and that execution proved to the Mayor of Norfolk by such person, will I think Obtain his seal of Office; and that a power so proved with a Certificate of such probate under his Seal, will be valid —

His property or Effects, whilst his person could be had, here would not be liable, to any legal proofs, untill Judgement had against ^{him} _^; how It may be in Jamaica, I cannot undertake to say —

If you have an Account of Sales from M^r Adams, you may by the Laws of Maryland, Attach his Lands & personal Estate, not by way of Security, for they would be absolutely condemned . . (IE) the ^{Effects} ~~Lands~~ would be appraised & delivered to you according to Appraisement, as also the Lands valued at their annual worth & delivered to you to hold at the valuation fixed upon by the Appraisers, till you might be fully satisfied — If they are under a Mortgage you would be under the necessity of paying the money due thereby and of taking an Assignment of the Mortgage before you could Secure yourself that way.

I would advise you to make out a State of your Affairs with M^r Adams, by way of an Account and make an Affidavit thereto agreeable to the circumstances of the Case, in Court next Week, and Transmit it under the Clerks Seal to M^r M^cMickan — If you should not Incline to act so publicly in the Affair — I would have you prove it before M^r Rob Adams & have It certified by the Clerk under his seal of Office, that M^r Adams was a Magistrate — not that I know that such Evidence is admisible there, but It appears to be the best that you can furnish in the present case — I would also advise you to take a Copy of the Power of Attorney inclosed and acknowledge It, at our next Court and Transmit that to M^r M^cMickan, attested by the Clerk under the Office Seal; one of which Powers or both, I am of opinion will be adduced Authentick and legal.

If any other matters should occur to you respecting this Affair, I have only to add, that I shall be

happy if you can receive the least assistance therein
from

Sir,

Your very Obed^t Serv^t,

ROB^T H : HARRISON

FROM COLONEL GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX.

BELVOIR Feb^y 22^d 1773

DEAR SIR

Altho' I can hardly hold a Pen, yett this is to
acknowl: the Receipt of yours, with a Letter for
your Brother, and Col^o R : H : Lee in Westmore-
land; which I hope they will Rec^d this Week, as I am
determined as soon as this very inclement touch of
Weather is over (for I think I never felt any more
severe) and I can pass the River to sett off, and
heartily wish you and Company good sport a Hunt-
ing, and hope you'l come into this Neck then, and at
all times without Ceremony

I hope the Pistols I have will do, if not will take
the liberty of sending for yours. What you have
done respecting the bound. of the seventy two Acres
of Land, is very satisfactory

Our Complements, and best wishes, attend you,
Lady, and Miss Custis, and am Dear sir

Your Most Obed^t humble Serv^t

G : W" FAIRFAX

I felt another touch of the
Gout last Night, but hope its
only the Effect of the Weather

FROM MR. J. G. FRAZER.¹KING WILLIAM C^t. H^t. Mch. 16th 1773

SIR

I shou'd have spoke to you on Sunday last as you returned from Williamsb^g concerning your suit against me in our Court, but had desired M^r. W^m. Aylett to speak to you when at W^msburg and not hereing from him prevented me; I am not able at this time to discharge my Debts, meeting with several misfortunes at Sea and elsewhere has occasioned it, and am now prevented from going about my business, keeps me from geting in any way to discharge my Debts so soon as I wish. I have a Letter of Licence on foot only to give me Liberty three years to pay up, which I am sure of doing if I have my Liberty and Health; every Gentleman I have applyed to yet has willingly signed it, and hope you will signify as much to M^r. Lyons or [mutilated] by a line, wch. will infinitely oblige Y^r. Hble Serv^t

J. G. FRA [mutilated]

FROM THOMAS NEWTON, JR., ESQ.

NORFOLK March. 22. 1773.

SIR

I am very sorry to inform you that we have very slow sale for flours at this time, owing to the large

¹ John G. Frazer was among the first volunteers in the war of the Revolution, and rose to the rank of major. The following extract is from Washington's *Order Book*, dated September 22, 1775: "John Gizzage Fraizer Esq^r being appointed Assistant to the Quarter Master General, for the District of Prospect and Winter hill, he is to be obeyed as such." In 1778 Major Frazer went to Bordeaux, from whence he kept up a correspondence with Washington, and continued to take an active interest in American independence.

quantity's from every part of the country, together with a report of the best superfine selling with you at 14/ 9⁶ C^t. I have not sold as yet above sixty^{barrels} of your best kind & not one of the inferior sort, but do not doubt of disposing [of] the whole of it payable at the July & October meetings, as yours has the preference of any at this market. we have had no arrivals lately that I cannot inform you of the state of the markets abroad for the the sale of flour much depends on the acc^t from Spain & Portugall & as the ports of Britain are opened I doubt not of many buying on speculation, which will occasion a rise here. I will inform you if any demand shou'd happen this way, that you may govern your Contracts thereby. I am.

Y^r Most Hb^{le} Serv^t

THO^s NEWTON J^R

FROM BENEDICT CALVERT, ESQ.¹

MOUNT AIRY Ap^l 8th 1773

DEAR SIR

I Received the favour of yours of the 3^d Instant by M^r Custis which I feel myself highly honoured by, and am truly happy in your Approbation of that young Gentlemans future Union with my Second Daughter.² I should be dead to Parental feelings,

¹ Benedict Calvert was a member of the Maryland Council, and one of the judges of the Land Office all through the administration of Governor Eden. He belonged to a collateral branch of the family of the Lords Baltimore.

² "My son-in-law and ward, Mr. Custis, has, as I have been informed, paid his addresses to your second daughter, and, having made some progress in her affections, has solicited her in marriage. How far a union of this sort may be agreeable to you

were I untouched with the polite manner in which you are pleased to compliment Nelly's Qualifications; Being her father, it would illy become me to sound her praise, perhaps I might be deemed partial — I shall therefore only say, That it has ever been the Endeavour of her Mother and me, to bring her up in such a manner, as to ensure the happiness of her future Husband, in which, I think, we have not been unsuccessfull — if we have, we shall be greatly disappointed. — I intirely agree with you, that it is, as yet, too early in life for M^r Custis to enter upon the matrimonial State, and hope his being placed at New York may be attended with every advantage to him which you and M^{rs} Washington can, at present, desire, or I could hope for, in the future happiness which I sincerely wish him and my Daughter long to enjoy, to which that must, as you observe, greatly contribute.¹ Permit me at the same time to hope with you, that this separation will only delay, not break off, the intended Match.

M^r Custis I must acknowledge, is, as a match for my Daughter, much superior to the sanguine hopes which a parents fondness may have at any time encouraged me to indulge; He is luckily so circumstanced in point of fortune, that the Inconsiderableness of the portions, I shall be able to bestow on my

you best can tell; but I should think myself wanting in candor, were I not to confess, that Miss Nelly's amiable qualities are acknowledged on all hands, and that an alliance with your family will be pleasing to his." — Washington to Benedict Calvert, April 3, 1773.

¹ "As his guardian, I conceive it my indispensable duty to endeavour to carry him through a regular course of education (many branches of which, I am sorry to add, he is totally deficient in), and to guard his youth to a more advanced age before an event, on which his own peace and the happiness of another are to depend, takes place." — Washington to Benedict Calvert, April 3, 1773.

Daughters, is, in this Alliance, a mere matter of a very secondary consideration — And that circumstance seems to prognosticate great happiness to Nelly, being a clear proof of the young Gentlemen's disinterested affection for her — I can only add, on this subject, that, from the largeness of my family (having ten Children) no very great fortune can be expected: What that may be depends upon the Issue of my present depending Claim. Of this, Sir, however be assured, nothing in my power shall be left undone to promote so pleasing an Union — Nelly's portion, as far as my personal Estate will go, shall, at least, be equal to any of my other Children, nor will you, Sir, I am sure, desire more — I shall at all times, when convenient, be happy in bringing my family to wait on M^r Washington, and equally glad to see her & Miss Custis with you at Mount Airy, where I hope it will suit you to call (next week early) in your way to Annapolis, and I will have the pleasure of attending you thither.

I am Dear Sir Your Most Obed^t & humble Serv^t

BENED^T CALVERT

I expect the pleasure of the Governors & M^r Haywoods Company a Saturday Evening, they stay with me till Monday Morning, when they set off for M^r Bouchers where they purpose to dine, and then go for Annapolis, I shall attend them there & return home in the Evening, without it will sute you to come here on Sunday and go up with them

B C

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, 8th Ap^l 1773.

DEAR SIR

I hardly remember ever to have been more surpris'd, than I was a few days ago, on being informed by the Governor of the Engagement that had taken Place between M^r Custis, & Miss Nelly Calvert: and, I beg Leave to assure You, on my Word & Honour, that, never till that moment, had I the most distant Suspicion of any such Thing's being in Agitation. It gives Me great Uneasiness to learn, from the same Authority, that You think Me, in some measure, to blame. To this, I can only reply, that, if I have err'd, the Error was of the Head, & not of the Heart. M^r Custis will do Me the Justice to own, that I have repeatedly warn'd Him of the Hazard every Man must necessarily run, who precipitates Himself into so important an Attachment, ere the Judgement be fully matured. He has Reason to be thankful, that He runs as little, as any one can. The peculiar & extraordinary Merits of the Lady He Fortunately, has singled out to place his Affections on, assure Me, he never will have Cause to repent it, from Her: I wish, I cou'd be half as sure, that his own future Conduct & altered opinions, may never tempt him to wish, that He had let it alone, a little longer.

You will remember, I always thought, that He was enamoured of Miss Betsey; tho' even in that, I suspected not, that there was any Likelihood of its be coming so serious, without my first knowing more of it. Why, He has carried it so Far, without ever

deigning to pay Me that common Compliment, which, I think, my Friendship For Him well entitled Me to, He best can tell: I will not, however, impute it to a worse Cause, than a false Shame. If He had consulted Me, He would have Found Me in that, as I hope, He has, in other Things, candid & indulgent. But, when I recollect, that He neglected also to inform You, I forbear my Murmurings, ashamed to insist too much on a Break of Friendship, with your Example before Me, who have Forgiven a Breach of Duty.

I beg You to recall to your Mind, what my Conduct has been in other Instances respecting this Young Gentleman: and I am sure You will do Me the Justice to own, that my not having advertis'd You of This also, has been owing solely to my not knowing it, myself. However infatuated I may have been in my political Pursuits, I wou'd not have been wanting in so essential an Instance of Duty. I therefore, will hope, that You will not continue to judge hastily of my Negligence, inasmuch as I again assure You, that, if I have been to blame, I have been so unintentionally.

I should belie my real Opinion, were I not to say, that, I think, it had been better for M^r Custis not to have engag'd Himself: but, since This could not be, I should hardly belie it less, not to own, that I think He cou'd nowhere have enter'd into a more prudent Engagement. Miss Nelly Calvert has Merit enough to fix Him, if any Woman can: and I do, from the Fullness of a warm Heart, most cordially congratulate his Mother & Yourself, as well as Him, on the

Happiness of his having made this most pleasing of all Connexions, with this the most amiable young Woman I have almost ever known. I know Her well and can truly say, She is all that the Fondest Parent can wish for a darling Child. Warmed with the Ideas of her Merit, I can almost persuade myself to believe, that the Advantage^{which may be} deriv'd to his Morals^{are} from this Engagement, rash as it has been, enough to compensate for the ill Influence it may be supposed to have on his intellectual Pursuits. There is a Generosity, a Fortitude, a Manliness & Elevation of Mind, which such true Gallantry inspires, that is not so easily otherwise taught. As I will not suffer myself to think, but for a moment that He will ever be wanting in Honour or Integrity, so as to tempt Him to shrink from an honourable Engagement, I trust, He will also consider Himself as not less bound in Honour, to avoid all those sordid & less noble Pursuits, which wou'd debase, & render Him unworthy of Her. Nay, I trust that He will find himself enabled to collect the dissipated Powers of his Mind, & apply with Earnestness to his Studies, which, it seems, He now Confesses, He has not been able to do these twelve months, owing to the Impression of this Passion. Upon the whole, it appears to Me, considering his Temper & Situation, ~~I cannot~~ ~~think~~ that his Friends have rather Reason to rejoice, than be uneasy, at this Engagement.

I enclose You a Letter from D^r Cooper, which, I assure myself, will not be displeasing to You. He is a Man of True Merit, in Every Sense of the Word;

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and You may safely depend on his doing every thing becoming such a Man. You see You have all this & the next Month, before You: He shou'd be there, before their Commencement in June, that He may not lose a Term and, as his Friend & old Companion Carr, has some thoughts of accompanying Him thither, on the same Errand, I will be obliged to You, if, without Inconvenience to Yourself, You can give Him three weeks or a Month, to consult his Friends, & get ready.

I am told, You have Business to our Provincial Court, the next week; I hope to see You either agoing, or returning. The Gov^r, M^r Calvert, the chief Justice, & M^r Dulany dine here on Monday: shou'd You set out on that Day, You know, You can be here in Time to Dinner.

I am, most truly & cordially, D^r sir,

Y^r most obed^t Hble serv^t

JONAⁿ. BOUCHER

FROM MR. GILBERT SIMPSON.

Aprel : ye : 11 : 1773

honoured S^r I Send you a Few Lines to Let you know that with Great diffeculty I Got Safe to Land^{your} which I believe there is no better in this part of the world but whether it has been wet and Cold that I Sufferd in my Jurney and about Teen days after I Got out by Lying in an old Leekkey Smooke Cabin or whether the water and Climent is disagreble to me or not I Cannot Tell but never have been to Say well Sence there I have Been which has Given

me a Great distast against the Cuntry but S^r I intend to do the best I Can to improve your Land untel the Fall and then to Quit the Cons^{ble}ern but S^r I hope you will not tak it a miss for my wife never was agera to Com to this part of the world which is a Clog to me but I all ways was in hops that I Could Recommend the place to her in Such a manner that would make her agreable but I Cant Recommend a to so near a frend that I have but a Still Likeing to my Self and I Com now to Let you that you may have all the of mine that I Brought out Such as wagon horses Geers Tools and Every thing Else at the apprasement and vallue of them besid a Good feather Beed and furne-
ture puter and water vessels and several things Elce
that was valued in the Concern Likewis my part of
the Crop that is to be Raisd but S^r if you do not
Chuse to Continue your hands on the plase or or to
send more under an overseer which there is many
out heare at would Gladly undetake to Look after
I do belive it if it is not agreable to you to do so
pray Let me know as Soon as possable for I Can
Sell all your artickels and mine under an advantage
and bring the Negros back again and would higher
your Two hands my Self if you Chus higher them
S^r please to Let me know what you would have don
in the affair and I will undertake to do the best I
Can for you that there Shall nothing of yours Suffer
or go a mis that I Can hinder S^r I Remain yours to
Command

GILB^t SIMPSON
YOUGHIOGAHANA

FROM REESE MEREDITH, ESQ.¹PHILADELPHIA May 5th 1773

ESTEEMED FRIEND

COLONEL WASHINGTON

From the little acquaintance I had with thee formerly, I take the liberty of recommending the bearer Cap^t John Harper who is in partnership with William Hartshorne — John Harper comes down in order to see the Country, if he likes it, they propose to come down and settle with you; they are Men that have a very pretty Interest — W^m Hartshorne lived with me some Time — They are Industrious, Careful, Sober Men; If Cap^t Harper should want to draw on this place for Five hundred Pounds, I will engage his Bills shall be paid — Any Civilitys shewn him will be return'd by

Thy Friend

REESE MEREDITH

—————

FROM COLONEL FIELDING LEWIS.

SATURDAY May 8th or 9th 1773

DEAR SIR

Buckner was here last Tuesday and promis'd to do the needful if possible, left the Town on Wednes-

¹ Born in Radnorshire, Wales, 1705; died in Philadelphia, 1777. Watson, in his *Annals of Philadelphia*, relates the following anecdote of this influential Quaker: "Reese Meredith, a merchant of Philadelphia, seeing Washington at the Coffee-house [in 1755], was so pleased with his personal demeanour as a genteel stranger, that he invited him home, to dine with him on fresh venison. It formed a lasting friendship, and caused afterwards, it is said, the appointment of another Meredith of the family [his son, General Samuel Meredith] to be first treasurer of the Union. As this acquaintance was formed without formal introduction, it long remained a grateful recollection in Meredith's family, as a proof of his discernment."

day and I am this Evening inform'd by M^r Whiting that he would not return, and as I hear'd a Gentleman this day say he was to receive Three hundred pounds from Buckner I conclude you will get no Money, have therefore ^{agreed for} ~~parted with~~ your Bills to M^r Charlton at the Curr^t Exch^s w^{ch} is not settled as the drawers expect 30 ⁹Ct^s & the buyers offer 25 ⁹Ct^s am now going to get the £300 — to send you to the care of your Brother Charles as wrote you by M^r Henderson have paid all demands ag^t you and have rec^d & paid as ⁹ Margin, M^r Montgomery will not pay the Ball^e of Whitings Bond Col^o Banister says he will pay before he leaves Town, Warner Lewis have not seen shall go that way John Fry not in Town, Armistead not in Town, Trustees of Bernard More will pay as soon as possible but no Money at this time, in short disappointments so general that I never before have seen so little business done nor one Tenth so many disappointm^{ts} I was fearfull from the beginning that Buckner would disappoint as I knew Gloster County to be the worst in Virginia to have any Money matters to collect from, I wish you a good Journey, as you pass Prince Town call and see my Sons who will I am sure have great pleasure in seeing you I am D^r Sir Y^r most Affectionate

Hum^o Serv^t

FIELDING LEWIS

P.S

Since writing the above M^r Hill informs me that he will be able to pay a farther Sum of Money, so that I ^{have} ~~shall~~ return'd one of your Bills £80 - 0 - 0.

Col ^o Washington	D ^r
To Cash p ^d M ^r Hodge Sterl ^s - - - -	£35 — —
To p ^d Cap ^t Page's Order £14 - 14 - - -	19 . 2 . 2½
To p ^d Crawfords Order in fav ^r Hite - -	50 ———
I am to pay M ^r Dade at our fair this	} - 60 ———
Month R Washington's Order w ^h he	
could not stay to receive desir'd me	
to bring up the Money —————	
	1645212½
Cash sent you by M ^r care of y ^r Brother	} - 300 ———
Charles	

	C ^r
By Cash of M ^r Norton - - - - -	£12 . 1 . 9
D ^o Treasurer ——— ———	12 . 2 . 6
D ^o of Hill - - - - -	84 . 10 . 8
	<u>112 : 15 : 11</u>
By 3 Bills Exc ^s to Edw ^d Charlton } amounting to £240 Sterl ^s ——— }	
one return'd £180	
By Cash of M ^r Hill - - - - -	62 .. 14 .. 5

FROM THE REVEREND WALTER MAGOWAN.¹

SIR

Yours of the 7th Ins^t is just come to hand: The Tickets in Lord Sterlings Lottery which I had of you are all disposed of, and indeed I am sorry that I did not advise you of this before now. Wishing you an agreeable journey, I am

Sir Your Obliged Hb^{le} Serv^t

WALTER MAGOWAN.

May 9th 1773 }

¹ John Parke Custis's former tutor.

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

SIR

I reced y^r Letter w^{ch} Col^o Lewis some few days after his coming to town & agreable to your instruction I have endeavourd to proceed wherein have recd of Doctor James Carter 4th May £10 . 16 d^s of the Ex^{ts} of M^r Claibornes £14 - of M^r Francis Foster £33 - 8 - of M^r Thomas Prosser 32 ~~Dollars by count at 5/9 1/2~~ £7 - 5 - 0 his money Lost 9^d when I weighed it I took it in dollars & he had no Scales at his Lodgings tho have given the rec^t for y^r Hole £7 - 5 - 9 & as to my own Acc^{ts} have made a very Poor collection tho have paid Col^o Lewis upon y^r hole include^s the Above sums 198 - 5 - 1 which immagine he will acquaint you with M^r William Dandridge was not in Town he sent by a young man who he Expected woud make some Small Collection for him Sufficient to discharge that sum but he made none at all

I have reced our goods wherein There is 2 Dousin of Grind Stones & some of them the Largest I ever saw full Large for Mill Stones if they were the right sort Stone I think if it woud not be two great expence I woud have y^m Sent back there is part of them very Siseable & fit for the purpose they are intended for; please to write to me if there is any Powdor & Shott come in as the Crows destroys & pulls up Near all our corne & I dont care to open all the goods to Serch; y^r Bale of Cotten is partly Damaged tho am in hopes it dont run far in I wanted to know What you woud have done with it & likewise if we must have the Easten Shore Tob^o sent on

Col ^o Washington	D ^r
To Cash p ^d M ^r Hodge Sterl ^s - - - -	£35 — —
To p ^d Cap ^t Page's Order £14 · 14 - - -	19 · 2 · 2½
To p ^d Crawfords Order in fav ^r Hite - -	50 — —
I am to pay M ^r Dade at our fair this Month R. Washington's Order w ^h he could not stay to receive desir'd me } - 60 — —	
to bring up the Money —————	1645212½
Cash sent you by M ^r care of y ^r Brother } - 300 — —	
Charles	

	C ^r
By Cash of M ^r Norton - - - - -	£12 · 1 · 9
D ^o Treasurer —————	12 · 2 · 6
D ^o of Hill - - - - -	84 · 10 ·

112 : 15 :

By 3 Bills Exc^s to Edw^d Charlton }
 amounting to £240 Sterl^s ——— }
 one return'd £180
 By Cash of M^r Hill - - - - - 62 ..

FROM THE REVEREND WALTER MAG

SIR

Yours of the 7th Ins^t is just come
 Tickets in Lord Sterlings Lottery
 you are all disposed of, and indeed
 did not advise you of this before
 an agreeable jour^{nal}

Sir

May

his Stock that he
 omey was one of the
 So Maschal there is hardly
 at by the Negroes Ab-
 appears to be something
 none out now I shoud
 little more time to wrote
 that I dont at this time
 to go [to] town before
 they have put of till last
 Town to day if Possible
 to write by him to have it
 what time he should leave
 so fully As I woud Will-

Y: M: Hble Serv:

JAMES HILL

May 1773

MR. GILBERT SIMPSON.

May : ye : 20 : 1773

have Sent you Two Letters before
 they Ever ketcht your hands or not
 w the perport of them was to acquaint
 Great aversion my wife had in Coming
 contains and I do not Like the Cuntry
 myself to Live in it but if you Chuse to
 your hands on the Land you may have all
 to me at the vallue of them as they are all
 your Land and as it is not Convenient

board of Cap^t Peterson & consind to Cary & C^o & whether I must Purchase the overseers Tob^o as Tob^o wont Exceed 2^d

I have engaged all our corne to some Gen^t on the Easten Shore at 12/6 ~~per~~ to be delivered by the last of June payable Octob^r Co^t which hope youl come down to as I was in hopes you woud a been down to this as there is Several Matters I want^d to consulted you upon in respect to land in dispute on the Easten Shore & likewise that in New Kent Col^o Pendleton advises me to bring suit in y^e County Court for that on the Easten shore & if [it] goes ags^t us then to appeale & we shall get it determind much sooner than if I have it first bro^t in Gen^l co^t

Coachman Jammey Lay out at least three months & I took the Overseers & drove a Neck of ours & Started him & a boy of ours who he had taken in Camp With him & was obliged to Catch him with a dog he has not Started since & promised he wont again but there is no dependence in him tho I did not Petition the Gen^l Court for Liberty to Ship him off for I intend to make a tryal of send^g him to y^e Easten Shore & [if] that wont do will Petⁿ in Octob. with your Concent they & others had Killd five of M^r Graves Largest Hogs & he confest Sliping a board of one of our Barns & had taken Corne twice or three times tho I whipd him But very little as I thought useless for he appeard as if he had been in time Past Severely Corrected he told me he was by old M^r Moody advised him if they woud all run away you woud turn me off, & I cant see what its for unless it is because I am enclosing the land that he

wont have the same range for his Stock that he Usually had as this fellow Jammey was one of the Ditchers tho he is so great a raschal there is hardly minding any thing he says but by the Negroes Abscond^d as they have, there appears to be something of truth in it tho we have none out now I shoud abeen Glad to have had a little more time to wrote you few more Particulars that I dont at this time Recollect being in a hurry to go [to] town before the Merc^t brake off as they have put of till last Lewis that he shoud leave Town to day if Possable & desired if I intended to write by him to have it ready as it was uncertain what time he should leave Town; that I cant write so fully As I woud Willingly do — & conclude

Y^r. M^o. Hble Serv^t

JAMES HILL

Monday Morn^g the 11th May 1773

FROM MR. GILBERT SIMPSON.

May : ye : 20 : 1773

HONOERD S^R I have Sent you Two Letters before but wheather they Ever ketcht your hands or not I do not know the perport of them was to acquaint you of the Great aversion my wife had in Coming over the mountains and I do not Like the Cuntry well anufe myself to Live in it but if you Chuse to Continue your hands on the Land you may have all belonging to me at the vallue of them as they are all Reydey on your Land and as it is not Convenient

for me to moove my family over I will under take to
 Com out once or twice a year To Serve you and if
 you Chuse I Should and Could Serve Severel other
 gentel men besids in Coming out Spring and fall and
 Contrive and plan of ther affairs for them for your
 Land is vastly fine for medo and Corn I Shall be
 down at home in about four weeks time from this
 and I Beg S^r you would send me a leter about that
 time or after awhile to let me know what you would
 do for I Shal not Com out again until the Latter
 End of Summer and then [if] you have a mind to
 Send out more Slaves and a horse or two and winter
 Close for those that are out heare I Shall be Reydey
 to Conduct them a long and if you Should want to
 purchas Stock and will Send money and let me know
 what you want I will indevor to Sute Everything in
 the Best manner as I Can no more but I Remain
 your humble Servant to Command GILB^r SIMPSON

YOUNGAGHANAY

FROM MR. EDMUND PENDLETON, JR.¹

May 23. 1773 —

SIR

I received your favour at W^{ms}burg, and deferred
 answering of it until I could see M^r. Armistead.

¹ Eldest son of John, and favorite nephew of Hon. Edmund Pendleton. He married the youngest sister of Judge Pendleton's second wife, and their second son, Edmund, was adopted by his great-uncle, and became his heir. He married, first, Jane Byrd Page and afterwards Lucy Nelson. He was the father of William Nelson Pendleton. The eldest son of Edmund and Milly (Pollard) Pendleton was John Pendleton, auditor of the State of Virginia, 1787-1794. Among the marriage bonds published in the *William and Mary Quarterly* is the following:—

"August 14, 1764. Edmund Pendleton, Jr., of Caroline county to Milly Pollard, daughter of Joseph Pollard, gentleman; *sc*; Jesse Payne; witn., Val. Wood. John Pendleton's letter of consent to his son's marriage; witnessed by John Madison and Wm. Campbell."

The money arising from the Sales of those Negroes Mortgaged by Col^o Moore to Col^o Baylor, is not sufficient to discharge Col^o Baylor's engagements by near £3000. and the debts due him, got in only as fast as will make easy with his own Creditors; ~~and~~ The Executors could wish you would wait til next Spring, for that they intend to sell some of the Estate this fall payable. then. If it is out of your power to wait that time, you will please take the further trouble of writing me another Letter, that I may advise the Executors of your determination.

I am

Sir

Your very Hble Servant

EDM: PENDLETON J^r

=====

FROM COLONEL FIELDING LEWIS.

May 24th 1773

DEAR SIR

Inclos'd you have Whitings Bond the Ballance of which M^r Montgomery refuses to pay, also Buckners Bond, no part thereof paid, also Armisteads Ex. Protest have not seen him since you sent me the protest; Inclos'd is a State of Money rec^d & paid for you at W^mburg by which you will be able to settle your Acc^t. Our Wheat is better than common and I think it's generally so that I have seen, Tobacco is become a drug the highest price with us is 12/6 Cash ~~9~~ hundred, and I believe little could be sold for the ready at that price, as there appears to be

little or no Money in cerclulation, the Merch^{ts} will not make any Money engagements on that account as it is almost impossible to comply with them, I expect there will be a necessity for the Assembly doing something in the matter unless times mend, for all the Specie will be sent away & the Treasury get the paper.

I am D^r S^r Your most affectionate

Humble Servant

FIELDING LEWIS

FROM MR. GILBERT SIMPSON.

June the : 14 : 1773

S^R this Coms to acquaint your honour that I am Returnd home from youhagahanay and have Left all well when I Came from there provision Enuf for the people to Eat and work anuf to do and I have Got a nye neibour to have an Eye over them and there work. tho my fellow is Sufficent to take Care and is as trusty I believe as most white men and will Carrey on work as well as most when Laid down to him S^r I Should be Glad to Get a few Lines from you to know what you determine upon wheather you take my part of things or not as I have wrote you about and S^r I want to know whether you will be at Leesburg any time this Summer or not for ~~the~~ it would save me the troble of Coming down to you for I have ~~had~~ been Saddeld with a Great del of trouble and hard Ship alreydey and Should not be fond of much more untell I Goe out again which perpose to

do about the first of September when I think the flies is a Little more moderate and then if you perpose to Send more hands and horses and Clothing for them that is there I Shall if God willing be a going out and pray S^r Send me in your Letter whether you are Going from home this Summer to Stay any lenth of time or not that I may not mis Seeing of you when I Com down I Send you in the inclosed a true account to Shew you how your meney is Laid out and Sum more to it So no more but Remains Your umble Servant to Command

GILB^t SIMPSON

LOUDOUN

N: B: I understand that M^r Lun Washingtons overseer has Got 15 acers of Land in Corn and I heard Just before I Came away that one of the negros had thrasht the overser but no Great hurt on Either Side

FROM EDWARD CHARLTON.¹

W^mBURG June 19th 1773

S^R

I rec^d Your letter this day, and sent^{it} Capt^m Younghusband for Liverpool, Col^o Lewis rec^d £200. from me at first, then Exch^o was not settled, but before he left town, I Paid him the remaining £8. -- I suppose he sent you the Acco^t before, is the reason of his not accounting with you for it

I am S^t Y^r Hble Serv^t

EDW^d CHARLTON

¹ A merchant in Williamsburg in 1773.

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

SIR

Not hav^t five Minutes to write by the Post your first Letter got Mislaide in the Office so as I never got it till the 16th June & by not hav^t y^r. Instructions how the Tob^o was to be Shipd I have put it all on board of Peterson & after rec^d y^r. Letter went up in order to stop the Quantity you orderd but was too Late so there is none but the Easten shore Tob^o which is Expected Every hour to Peterson all our People at Mill Quarter are now down with the Measles & Expect all ours to have it every hour hav^t no time Prevents my writeing to you more fully you never Mentiond any thing ab^t the Tob^o in the letter by Col^o Lewis the Post Obliges me to conclude

Y^r Most Ob^t Serv^tJA^s HILL

19 June 1773.

FROM HENRY HILL, ESQ.¹PHILAD^a 22^d June 1773

SIR

I have perused the Letter you favor'd M^r Meredith with of the 17th and am obliged by your inclination to correspond with my partners at Madeira — Altho it's not usual to ship fine wine but for bills of

¹ Henry Hill, son of Richard Hill, mayor of Philadelphia, was born in Maryland in 1732, and died September 15, 1798. He was a very prominent merchant in Philadelphia, and engaged extensively in the Madeira wine trade. He held many positions of importance both before and after the Revolution, and was a member of the Convention of 1776. He married Ann, daughter of Reese Meredith.

Exch^t I have inclosed a letter to the house requesting they wou'd comply with your orders for a few pipes of that quality for your own use & take the payment in flour as you propose — It's an article likely to answer your purpose as well as I can judge — I think if the quality is very good it will not clear less than 15 ^{per} C^t or more — & Corn as much — for the proceeds of the last your returns may be order'd in wines most salable with you of any denomination except particular.

In every part of the transaction at Madeira I have so much reliance on my partners' skill & integrity that you may freely consider me as accountable to you for whatever ought to be expected from good factors.

You will please to insert in the Bill of Loading fr^t payable in wine of any kind except particular or Bill wine: and shou'd the owners be disengag'd to any house there I shall thankfully acknowledge your interposition to get the vessel & remainder of the Cargo consign'd to your fr^{ds} which as a considerable shiper only you'll have some right to apply for —

Your Congratulations on my happy marriage are extremely acceptable to M^r Hill who joins me in presenting^{our} best respects to you & yours — I am, Sir
Your most obed^t friend & Serv^t

HENRY HILL

FROM DOCTOR JOHN CONNOLLY.

PITTSBURGH June 29th 1773.

DEAR SIR.

Since my Return from the Illinois Country, where his Majesty's business, as well as my own private Affairs had called me, I have had the honor of two Letters from you; I have also had the pleasure of Mr Wood's company here, and esteem him a very proper person for the accomplishment of your purposes, whose abilities (I conceive) will direct him to the proper choice of Country, when he has once taken a View of the Northern Parts of West-Florida, & considered their dependence upon, & connection with the commercial situations upon the Sea Coast.¹ —

As I have the honor to know how laudably solicitous you are to be made acquainted with whatever may be curious or instructive in this Western Country; & as I experience a particular happiness in communicating any thing tending to your amusement, or satisfaction, permit me to present you with some of my Remarks made during my last Journey. As the Falls of the Ohio generally afford matter of conversation, when this River, is considered in an extensive & Political Sense, I shall begin with a description thereof. This remarkable place lies in Lat: 38°, 22' & is not formed by the continuation of any Mountain, or part thereof crossing the Stream; altho from a superficial View one would be induced

¹ James Wood, father of James Wood who preceded Monroe as governor of Virginia, and whom Washington describes as "a gentleman well esteemed in Virginia," was commissioned by him to select and have surveyed ten thousand acres in West Florida, which Washington claimed under the royal proclamation of 1763.

to adopt the opinion. — There is a small Island about three miles above the Falls, the Westerly End of which you scarcely leave behind, when an increased Stream is perceivable, & on the North, a flat kind of Lime-Stone Rock stretches along the Shore, advancing from the Wood to the River a considerable distance, & affording a good Portage. Upon turning the next Point, & keeping in with the South Bank, (which is requisite going down) the Falls are discovered, the North part of which runs with great violence, the Water dashing over the hidden Rocks, attended with the consequent Roar, presents to the View a Sight pleasing enough; altho the necessity of passing thro the noisy Tumult, will somewhat take off the edge of enjoyment. This side altho mostly esteemed impassable, is the best Route in low Water, & is the channel thro' which I went my last voyage. On the South opposite to the head of the Rapids, stands an Island, which from a rugged scaley Rock crossing the River forms the beginning of the Falls; however from the Island to within two hundred yards of the North Shore, (which may be three quarters of a mile) the Water runs moderately, ~~enough~~ & being but shallow, stops a multitude of stately Trees which are borne down by the successive Floods; these being parallel to each other, with their Roots opposed to the ^{stream} & spreading themselves across, add to the natural obstruction of the Water: For the distance of two hundred yards close in with the North Shore, the Fall is great, & a vast number of hidden Rocks just under the surface, together with others

which appear, render this way not the most eligible to a stranger; altho' (as I before observed) in dry Seasons, it is the best. If the distance of two hundred yards be ran down without striking, the danger is then over; & altho you toss on with wonderful rapidity, & may ship some little Water, there is nothing to be feared. About two hundred paces above the Island last mentioned, & on the same side enters a small Water, called Bear-grass Creek, into the Mouth of which most People are directed to put, to examine the condition of the Falls. If the River is full or moderately high, they set out, keeping the North side of the Island about 150 yards upon the Lar-board side, & thence gradually gain the middle of the River, which direction is to be kept untill they come opposite to the West point of the Island, when the shore must be approached to within the distance of two hundred paces, & then continue on, observing this last course, which shoots the Boat thro' the Southermost opening & end of the Rocks, & Falls immediately below the Falls, the Road for the Portage of goods comes in upon the River, which does not exceed one mile & an half to where the Adventurer disembarks his Property, if any Risque is apprehended. — At the West end of the Falls, the Rocks with the accumulated Sand & Mud retained by their roughness & inequality, pushing^{out} \wedge various Shrubs, & vegetable substances, together with the beautifull Cascades made by divers Breaches thro' the Rocks of different descent, render the prospect variegated, & delightfull.

Batteaux in coming up Stream find it most expedient to keep the second opening from the South side, & by severe dragging, are capable to force up such Vessels half loaded in the lowest Water — This Route Major Hamilton with the Royal Irish pursued last year in returning from the Illinois.

Altho both sides of the River afford good Portage, the North being a smooth Rock, & the South a Level Country with a tolerable open way; yet the Preference is to be given to the South Shore, both on account of the Creek's Mouth before spoke of, affording a close approach to the Land, denied on the opposite Shore by the Rocks irregularly projecting into the River, rendering the Landing difficult if not impracticable for Loaded Boats; as well as on account of the smaller distance of portage on the South. Troublesome as the Falls are in low Water, they are scarcely perceptible in Floods. The 14th of March 1772 I past over them in company with 8 other Batteaux under the command of Maj^r Hamilton, & could only observe an increased Rapidity in the Water with a small noise towards the North Shore. Various Petrifications are to be seen upon the Shores, & upon the Rocks at this Place; even Buffaloe excrement, with the small vegetable substances discoverable therein, curiously turned into Stone, yet so nicely retaining the original appearance as to be immediately known. —

On the East side of Scioto not far distant from a House known by the Name of the blinking Woman's (a Shawanese Squaw), is to be seen a very curious Piece of antiquity. I mean what is gener-

ally called an Indian Fort The Country hereabout is level ; however this Work (as well as every other of a similar Nature, which have fallen under my observation) is placed upon an Eminence. Major Collins (who perhaps you know) was in Company with me returning from the Shawanese Towns, when I went to examine an Affair of which I had received such various Reports. — People who are not happy in speculation have a speedy method of accounting for every thing of this Nature in America, by attributing the whole to the Toil of Nature. I must acknowledge that I was apt to give in to the general Opinion, from the slight Vestiges which I had frequently met with, until I saw One upon the Shawanoe River, which altered my conception, & this I am about to describe thoroughly convinced Me of the falsity of the general conjecture. It is of an oblong Figure, or rather two ovals joined together, which junction cannot be observed from without ; the sides appearing to the external observer indented parallel to each other. A Ditch of about twelve Foot perpendicular depth surrounds the whole ; the Earth thrown upon each side forms an oblique descent to the bottom thereof, & renders the Levé on each side of an equal height. On the North you enter by a Gateway of 20 Foot which for that distance intersects the Ditch, being level with the common surface : by this means you are conducted to the Centre of the first inclosure, the Area of which may be about 350 yards. From hence may be seen a seperation by another Levé, the ear[t]h composing which is thrown from the East side, leaving the North inclosure entire & level,

exclusive of the Gate-way just mentioned, & another to communicate with the Eastern Oval of the same Nature. From the middle of the East work, you may discover three large Openings, & by a Compass found the largest East, one N. E. & the third S. E. all corresponding in Point of Appearance to the North Gate already described; except that the Walls on each side of the East Gate seem mouldering away, & the opening increased by the depredation of Time — The Ruins of Fort Pitt twenty years hence, will not exhibit half the labour discoverable at this place; altho by whom performed, is an impenetrable secret to the Savages who inhabit the Country. I shall not trouble you with a more minute description than what I have just extracted from a rough Journal, which alone I flatter myself, will convince you & every other reasonable Gentleman, that it is not the irregular & fortuitous effects of Nature, but the consequence of a laborious, & even an indefatigable Body of Men. To corroborate this belief let me assure you that from a Work equally astonishing which I saw upon the Shawanoe River, I took a Cruse the handle of which had been broken off, the One side bearing the appearance of a Man's Face, with an opening at the Top & another at the Eye for the receipt & discharge of any Liquid. These Traces together with a variety of other Circumstances equally true, & astonishing, have induced me to believe that this Country hath been formerly inhabited by a politic, & numerous People; & that those appearances under the general denomination of Indian Forts, have been places rather of Religious Worship than

Fortification. In support of this Hypothesis I could produce many Arguments founded upon plausible conjecture, but as it would inevitably lead me into a train of reasoning exceeding the Limits of a communicative Letter, I shall not here attempt so arduous an Undertaking; yet I am irresistably induced somewhat to connect my suppositions in support of my opinion. Might not a Warlike Sett of People from the North, or North West part of this Continent have overan & defaced a cultivated & polite Country; burying in obscurity, every Sign of former Accomplishments, & Government? All Europe underwent, nearly a similar change. An Opinion so new may appear singular; but as the conjecture may afford entertainment, so neither does it want some plausible reasons to alledge in its support. The Antient Inhabitants of South America were by no means destitute of civil policy & order; the Arts & Sciences flourished amongst them in no contemptible degree, if we credit the Reports of the first European Invaders.

Altho the Use of Letters was not one of their accomplishments, by which traditional accounts might have been handed down to after Ages, yet the Traces of a Polite People, were many, & evident; particularly in their Public Edifices, dedicated to the Deity. If to these appearances We add a comparative View of the rude, & uncultivated^{state} to which the most famous Countries on the other side of Atlantick were Reduced, by the destructive Rage of their despoylers the supposition may not seem altogether Chimerical.

Antient Italy the Seat of Roman elegance & refinement, appears to have been covered with Forests & Marshes, of vast extent in the eight century, by the overflowing of Rivers, & the scarcity of its inhabitants; neither were these confined to small & barren Tracts, but comprehended large districts, which antient Writers represent as very fertile, & which at present are highly cultivated. In many Charters given from Charlemagne, & his successors Lands have been granted to Private Persons, because by them they had been taken from the Desert improved, & inhabited.

Famine & Pestilence which generally march in the rear of a Numerous Body of Men, in the Northern, as well as the Southern parts of the Globe, might have probably diminished & dispersed the Conquerors over the different parts of North America, & reduced them to the trifling Tribes now known to Us, speaking different Languages, & retaining their independency. The Arts, & Sciences, together with different systems of Policy advanced in Europe from evident Causes, & at present equal if not exceed what might have been remarkable in former Ages in point of human Attainments, but in America the Omniscient Judge of all things may have re-illuminated accomplishments, as glorious, as any of the Mother-Country, by means equally efficacious, & manifestly more expeditious, in pointing out the discovery to Columbus. These are only Hints rudely thrown together upon which I might greatly enlarge, & perhaps support my Hypothesis from many Circumstances; but as I fear, it is a Task to which I am

unequal, I wave farther suppositions, & shall leave the matter to the scrutiny of some more adequate Capacity. I would be much obliged to you Sir, to acquaint me what expectation I might have in procuring a Right to two thousand Acres of Land from the Government of Virginia, by Virtue of his Majesty's Proclamation, being entitled thereto as a Staff-Officer. I have given Cap^t Bullit a Location, & should be proud of your advice, & interest — Who am with true Respect

Your most obed^t humble: Serv^t

JOHN CONNOLLY.

FROM THOMAS NEWTON, JR.

NORFOLK June 30. 1773.

SIR

I received yours of the 14th will take care that your Letter to M^r M Micken shall be forwarded by a vessel that will sail in a few days. I now send you the prices of the flour herrings & ship stuf sold for which I hope you'll approve off. the first quantity is not all sold yet tho there is but few barrels left. I am really at a loss what I shall do with the middlings as the Bakers will not touch them & they will not answer at the West India markets. I am now fitting a vessel for Madeira where I have been inform'd they will answer, if you incline to send them I will ship them for you, your answer will much oblige me by the first post as I expect the vessell will sail in a few weeks. We have no demand for ship stuff at present but if you incline to send what you have on

hand imagine I cou'd get ten shillings & freight down for it. I am

Y^r Hbl^e Serv^t
THOMAS NEWTON JUN^R

Superfine at 16/8 most of it freight paid down payable Oc^r

Ship Stuff -- @ 10/ -- freight paid - payable in July
Herrings payable in July at 15/ ⁹/₁₆ Barrell —

FROM MR. GILBERT SIMPSON.

July : y [mutilated] 1773

HONOERD S^R I Receved your Letter of the 8 of Junly in which I Find you are much disturevd and I am Reyley Sorrey that you Should be so much uneasey at a thing that kind before you know that you are a Loosing anything I Full well know I must bear all the blame and Sure I am to bear all the Loos tho verely Ill able to bear any for I know my Self to be a Great Looser in this present year and not only So but I verely beleve I am a Greater by not Going to yor Land for Good ~~by~~ but what must becom of that house that devids against its Self for my wife never Let me fairly know her intencions unteel your Negro,s and other things Came to me and then I thoug[ht] it was best to gooe out and Settle In hoops She would Com in to another way of thinking but I the more I Strove to persuad the Further She Semd to be of and to Give a person so Nearly Connected as

a wife is uneas^{nes} perhaps all there days I Could not
 So I think my Self at this time to be in a fare uneas-
 easeye way than what you Can have any Right to
 be in For S^r I am Going [to] Let you know why I
 think you Can be at no los in the first plase you Fur-
 nish me with two hands as Sorrey as they Could
 well be for the fellow is a worthless hand and I
 beleive allways will be so Sum occasiond by his feet
 and Sum Natural in his boons¹ as for the Garl She
 knew nothing of work but I beleive She will make a
 fine hand after two or three years in the next plase
 I Saved you teen or twelve pounds by Settleing on
 yor Land as I did for it was taxt as unCultavated
 Lands but Cap^t Crawford told me that my Coming
 on the Land he would have the tax taken off in the
 Next plase there is a hansom Little Improvement
 made on your Land according to the time and hands
 For I Neve[r] Lit of harder work nor did more of it
 in the time than I did ther for I find the Clearing is
 as hard there as any where for tho the Grubing is
 Lit[t]l[e] the Cuting is vastly heavey occasiond by
 the Great Number of old trees Lying on the Earth
 tho I Got Six acers in Corn and under Good fens
 from the 6 of aprel unteel the 7 of may and the
 Ground well brook up and Cleard ~~th~~ two acres more
 and had my Corn all hild up before I Came away
 which was abot the first week in June which was a
 fort night Sooner than intended to Com in ~~in~~ but
 had I not a Com when I did I mus have Lost my
 horses by the Great Number of Flyes and no paster

¹ Bones ?

to keep them in and as I had a Good deel of harvisting at home I Could not Stayd above a fort night Longer and as for the work Going on I am not the Least affrade for I Laid off anuf to bee don and am nowise affrade of its being don according to the Goodnes of the hands for I allwise found my fellow faithful to his trust and to do more when I was from him thn when I was present and as I Got a nye Neibur to Com onst a day to derect them I think there is but Little daynger of the work Going on by which meens S^r I think your Land 50 better this day than it was the first day I Set feet on it for to Consider the hard of Going into the woods and haveing Every mouthfull of bread to buy and not noing wheare to buy it for Sum time Conciderable and no house to put ones head in Except an ~~of~~ old bark Cabbin of Nine feet SQuair in which I was forst to Remain for fifteen days and Nights occasiond by bad wether which had Like to have been my Last by Catching bad Colds unteel it flung me in to fevers but now the worst is over there is a Good Large Cabben of Eighteen feet SQuair and the inside hulld all down and in Good order to make a Qu[a]rter of or to take of ruff and to put a Shingeld on which was the intent of it at first So to Concider all things I beleive S^r you will not find your Self at Such a Loos as you Complam of as for I am Certain that ther is not Such another plase to be found as yours is booth for the Goodness of the Land and the Convenans of the plase for I do beleive had I a been provided with Corn and oats and pastering that I Could have maid

fifteen pounds this Spring by Travelers and a been at Little trouble So your plase is now in a fine be-
 gining way and I do verely beleive that you may See more profit in Seven years time by keeping Six hands and Stock on that plase with an overseer if he be a fathfull person than you would by twelve hands on any of your other Lands otherwise if you was to Rent it out I Look on it to [be] worth Six or Eight pounds a year from the Jump and your hands Could be brought baik and all your other affairs Could be Sold to a Great advantage So that I am Sorrey S^r Should Complain before you Consider the matter aright it is true you may be at a Loos to Get a proper person to undertake your buysness for you tho there is ma[n]y will offer of which this Letter Coms by one of the Name Richard Stogdon from the Nor[t]h and a utter Strainger to me by whos hands I hope you will Send me a Line or tow mor to Let me know whether you will bee at home at your august ^{Cort} or not for then I would Com down to alexandria I would have Com to you Long Sens but I have been Tormened with boyles insomch that I Could not Ride ever Sence I have been at home but S^r my advise to you is to Get an Overseer if you Give him Standing wag[e]s for depend it will bee more to your profit than to bee in partnership with any person for the profits ariseing from the plase must bee Great I would bee Glad to know whether you perpose to take any part or all my things or not So S^r I Remain your humble Sⁿ GILB^r SIMPSON

LOUDOUN

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

YORKE COUNTY 2^d July 1773

SIR/

I have been very uneasey relative to the Shipping
the Tob^o since I have recd your instructions to put
10 on board Eastin but y^r Letter got Mislaide ^{in y^r Office} for I
applyd the 25th or 26th ^{of May} & the young Man Appeared
to be at a stand But at last said there was None &
Cap^t Peterson hastend me to put what Tob^o I had
on board immediately & by your Shipping to no other
Person last year Made Shure you intended it all for
^{as Easten Applyd last year & y^e let him have none}
the same agⁿ ^{since I got your Instructions} for I have put my Self to a Great deel
of Trouble ^{an Acc^t of being} for Just as I returnd from up the Coun-
try from hav^g the flat ^{being} loaded there was ab^t that Qn^y
left & I immediately after rec^d y^r Letter went up to
Stop that Qnt^y but was two Late which hope it will
^{As I have Acted & don for y^e best}
Make no Great difference with you ^{sent &} — The inclosed
is the W^t & Numbers of the Tob^o y^r was shipd; at
the time I ^{sent &} took the W^t from Litlepages Trowers
Tob^o Was not put on Board only one & there was
one Hhd of Rich^d Streets y^r was not heavey Enough
wch I had Reprised to a 1000 Which is since Shipd
& Trowers too & one ~~Hhd~~ of Hanover Tob^o for the
Rent of that Land in Hanover 1005 N^t to y^e Best of
my Recolection I woud have sold it in y^e Country
but they gave me a Tollerable Carrecter of it & Tob^o
Sold Low; I had Purchased the overseers Tob^o Be-
fore your letter got to hand at 2^d the Tob^o in New
kent & Davenport in K W^m the overseers below did

not care to take that Price & agreed to take what W^m Graves Gave the overseers in that Estate which is not yet settled — Joseph Davenport & my Self had some Conversation when I was up last respecting his Lay he has Always had the 8th of what was made in Corne & Tob^o & a 3^d of the Butter wch I refused Giv^s & he desired it might be Referred to you & that he hoped ^{you} woud not think of Alterring his Lay the agrement with what men I have employ d has been A Shair for Every 8 hands & he thinks its two little & Likewise what part of Butter you woud think of Giv^s as you have A list of the Hands & there Ages please to give me y^r Opinion he says you know what Business he left to come in your employ — You desire me to inform you how our Crops come on I think they are tollerable Consid^s the Poverty of the Land & the Sickness of the people I am in Hopes to make a Crop of wheat but have had the most Trouble with my Harvest I ever had in all my life the people at Mill Quarter has lost a perdious deel of time with the Measles which has put that Plantation much behindhand I expect to make a very Good Crop my own Place where I live I am in hopes of mak^s between 4 & 5 Hundred Bush^{ls} wheat & our oats are pretty Good but not in yet, I sew d 35 Bushels at home & Near that Qnt^y at the Quarter over the mill our wheat is much Better below than above our Corne is Low & the Tob^o all Stand^s Very well & looks Very well only Small we have some Just a com^s in the Top —

I woud have Sent you an Acct of the Tob^o Shipd

before this but have Waited for to know if the East-
 enshore Tob^o was come over I spoke to Cap^t Peter-
 son at KWilliam Court & it was not come then &
 he informed that he had his load for some^{time} & only
 waited for that Tob^o which woud fill him up & they
 wrote me from the Easten shore that Wilkins Ves-
 sell was Expected in Every day which woud be Sent
 of immediately with the Tob^o which was ab^t the 10th
 June & I have tryed Every Vessell that I saw at the
 Cap^t Land^s & coud not get one some two small in y^e
 Hole & those y^t were larger Were otherways engaged
 & no one on the Easten shore will undertake but
 Wilkins there Vessells Genally two Small but hope
 he wont let us meet with Another Disappointm^t as
 he promisd a second time at y^e last meet^s as he had
 disapp^d Last he woud be shure to send it now how-
 ever Cap^t Peterson said if it came two late for him
 they had another Ship in Ja^s River which he woud
 have it sent on board of her, I wrote over yesterday
 to know the reason of its not com^s tho much Expect
 it is on board but had^{not} an oppertunity of See^s the
 Cap^t since K W^{et} Relative to an Invoice Please
 to look at the Last years invoice & Qn^t of Ognab^s
 fell short 80 Ells wch was obliged to Purchase & 20
 y^ds of Cotton there woud abeen Cotton Enough or
 near it but the man I got to Cut out Cut Several
 Suits two Small which will do for this year & as I
 shall have a good deel of Woollen Cloth Spun hope
 we shall have some negro Cotton to spare & as you
 Sent for no Blankets must have^{it} Cut up into Blankets
 for the wenches with Child & those who have young

Children & make it go as far as it will & as to Nails
 & Rakes there was Just Enough & not any to Spare
 I have sent you ^{a list of} what other Nessaries I think will
 be want^e or what I can at this time recollect — the
 above I wrote yesterday & Sent ^{to} town for y^r Letter
 on Satterday morn^e & in answer you desire I will
 give year to what y^r Direction Which by that you
 think I have Invented a falcity ab^t the ^{y^r} Letter being
 Mislaide ^{in y^r Office} as Ive above Mentiond I applyd the 25 or
 26 of May & they S^d there was none for which rea-
 son I supposed you Intended the Tob^o to go as it did
 Last year to Cary & Co^{py} & as to follow^e y^r Direction
 there is no man has ever endeavourd to come up to
 any Direction ^{more} then I have to y^r in Every respect, &
 there is no Borne that has undergone more to Serve
 you & the Estate then I have done & as to a fal-
 city I Scorene to tell one as much as any ^{man} ^{man} Breath^e,
 which I told you when I took the Business that if
 thought I did not answer every Purpose I was willing
 to giv^e up to those you ^{thought answered the Business} Better, it was no^t advantage to
 me to Send the Tob^o contrary to your Instructions
 I last year told you that Cap^t Easten applyd for ab^t
 10 Hhds wch you S^d you formerly let him have the
 Easten Shore Tobacco but if you think Proper for
 me to continue I never will ship one Hh^d without y^r
 Direction nor woud not now only the Cap^t desired I
 woud make all the Despatch I Possably coud & I
 expected you was to y^e Norw^d & by my Get^t no In-

struction thought it might be a disappointm^t to wait till you returnd

I have had the Misfortune to Loose the Miller dyed a satterday last which obliges me to put one of the old Carpenters^{old ned} which by his Character when he was there Before I came in y^e Estate was not approved of by the Custommers therefore I think it the Best way to Continue him Till the Mill is rebuilt this fall as the Person employd Will be Idle while the Mill is build^d — I am Likely to Make a Tollerable Crop of wheat & whether you woud like of my Geting of two wheat Fans to clean the wheat I think to the Best of recollection Col^o Syms told me his was 5£5 or there Ab^t wch I did not care to Engage two of them till I acquaintd you wch please to direct whether I must get one for the upper Plantations & one for the Lower; I have been so busily Engaged for this fortnight Past with my Harvest the people prov^d Sick^{ly} & the rest so very Auquord that I have been fateauged almost out of my Life that I at this time Recollect nothing more then if M^r Wash^gton & y^r Self woud let nanny & her Famyly Come down as its so vastly Ilconvenient at these Busy times to spare a boy & horse to send the cloaths up to be made as She cant Spin that wench Better that you were Look^d at when at the white house I have [had her] down & put her under the Doctor & she begd to go up to see her Children & she ant able to go into y^e Crop so she is a spinner & thought they did not do so much there as if they were down & proposed Bring^d y^m down & it seems like death to them

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to be removed wch I think if they were down it might be an advantage to y^e Estate for the Teemsters & Spinners all to be up there dont do half as much as to be down

Y^r Very Hble Serv^t

JAMES HILL

FROM THE REV. DR. COOPER.¹

KINGS COLLEGE, NEW YORK,

2^d July 1773.

DEAR SIR,

I rec^d Your's the Day before Yesterday Unfortunately, M^r Custis himself, having taken it from y^e Man employ'd by y^e Post Master to carry Letters about, brought it to me: so that I gave the inclosed to him immediately, little suspecting the mournful Contents.² The Shock, You may suppose, was severe: however, he is grown much more composed; & I hope his good sense and Christian Fortitude, in a reasonable Time will perfect y^e Cure.

He lives now altogether in the College, and dines with the Professors and myself in the College-hall. He has fitted up a Room in a neat plain Taste, attends his Instructors punctually, and, I doubt not, will make a proficiency equal to y^e Warmest Wishes and Expectations of his best Friends. At present,

¹ Born in England, 1735; died in Edinburgh, Scotland, May 1, 1785. Thomas Jones in his *History of New York*, referring to Dr. Myles Cooper, says: "I knew him well. He was honest, just, learned, and liberal; judicious, sensible, friendly, and convivial; he loved good company, and good company loved him; he was by no means dissipated. He loved God, honoured his King, esteemed his friends, and hated rebellion." On account of his tenets and publications, Dr. Cooper was obliged to flee from America.

² The announcement of the sudden death, on the 19th of June, of Patsy Custis.

indeed, as must be expected, his Mind is not in a State to admit of any Intentness of Application; but I am persuaded, as his Grief wears off he will do every Thing that is reasonably to be expected from a young Gentleman in his Situation. He has already gained much upon y^e Affections of his Instructors; which is a Circumstance that cannot fail of producing very beneficial Effects, with Regard both to his Learning and Happiness, during his Residence in this Place.

I fancy he will not chuse to write to you himself for a few Days; but he has desired me to inform you that his Situation among us is perfectly agreeable.

I have y^e Honour to be, good Sir,

y^r Most obed^t and obliged Serv^t &c.

M COOPER

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

SIR/ on Receiv^d your Letter I went to M^r Molley Davenport who informs me the Mourning will be ready by Satterday Next & not Sooner & went in Serch of the Post But could not find him howe^r M^r Purdee Informs me he Applyd to him & agrees to take the Care of them. I Shall go to Town agⁿ on Satterday Next & if the Post dont undertake to Carry them I must send a messenger but how he will Carry them I know not as we have no Port Mancher as I suppose it will require somthing of ^rSort to Carry them with Safety— there is a Matter I omited in my other Letter wch is you write me

you Woud be Glad I woud make Sail of what I have ^{corne} payable in Octo^r I have Sold what I have at your Plantation KW^m & the New Kent Q^m at 12/6 payable in Octob^r to two Gen^t on the Easten Shore Henrey Guy & Isaac Moore who was if Possable to take it away by the Last of June & that from the Easten Shore by the Last of May which By the over-seers Letter to me dated the Last of May he had not Deliverd his Corne for there Vessell was not returnd from the West Indias but was Expected Every day & then they take Whats upon that shore & then send over ^{for} a load of ours from New Kent & yours from King William I made inquirey if they were Good for that much & am informd they are very Able people begin to think much to give 15/ below & if I make an alteration people who have been Customers to the Mill will think much of giv^e of that Price & others purchase^s of @ 12/6 However I think to Sell where they take as much as five Bar^{ls} at 12/6 & over & under that Qt^y 14/ I have sold 50 Bar^{ls} to Doctor James Carter 50 Bar^{ls} for M^r Nobe @ 15/ & have Deliverd 45 of it, & Likewise 40 to y^e best of my Memory to the Joaler & taken an order on the Parish Collector & as to the Ball^{ce} I sell out but Slowly as they think the Price two Great

I recollect no more at Pres^t But remⁿ

y^r M^o Obedient Hble Serv^t

JAMES HILL

W^mBURGH July [mutilated] terday 3^d 1773 —

FROM HIS EXCELLENCY LORD DUNMORE.¹

DEAR SIR

I received the favour of yours of the 20th of last Month on saturday last, as I did your former in April, & most certainly should have answered it then If I had not expected to have been in your Neighbourhood before your return from the North, & I then proposed to have waited upon you at Mount Vernon, where I was in hopes we should have settled every thing for our intended journey; But I am now most exceedingly sorry to learn by your last that you have so good a reason for chainging your resolution, & I do sincerely condole with you, & poor M^r Washington for your loss, tho as the poor young Lady was so often Afflicted with these fitts, I dare say she thinks it a happy exchainge. I propose to leave this in a day or two in my way to M^r Wormly's, to take up the Old Gentleman, who has promised to accompany me up to your part of the world, & if I thought it would not be disagreeable to M^r Washington I certainly would do myself the Honor of calling upon you, but if it should not be agreeable to M^r Washington to see company I hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting you at some of your Neighbour's which will oblige

your most Ob^t

W^mBURG July 3^d 1773.

& very Hb^{le} Ser^t

DUNMORE

¹ John Murray, Lord Dunmore, born in 1732, died in May, 1809. Governor of Virginia from July, 1771, to June, 1775.

FROM JOHN PARKE CUSTIS.

KINGS COLLEGE July 5th 1773HON^d SIR

Pardon me for having thus impos'd upon your good Nature by not writeing to you sooner, I neither could nor had it in my power to say any thing with certainty concerning my establishment here till now. It gives me Pleasure that I now have it in my Power to inform you how agreeably every thing is settled. there has nothing been omitted by my good Friend Doctor Cooper which was necessary to my contentment in this Place, And Gratitude as well as Truth oblidges me to say, that the other Professors are not the least remiss in their Duty but give all the assistance they can consistant with the Duty, they owe to the other students, I attend at stated Hours, the Professors, in Mathematicks, Languages, moral and experimental Philosophy. & I Hope the Progress I make in these useful branches of knowledge will redown not only to my own Credit, but to the Credit of those who have been instrumental in placing me here, & in particular render you some compensation & Satisfaction for the parental Care and Attention you have always & upon all occasions manifested towards me, & which demand my most grateful thanks & returns, to make which shall be the constant Care of J. P. Custis —

I found great difficulty in disposing of my Grey Horse. his Colour made so much against him that I was oblidged (to avoid expence) to sell him at public Vendue for only 34 pounds this Currency a price

tho below his value I was obliged to take. The Bay I have kept & shall keep unless I hear from you to the contrary. He is a Horse I know to be good, & one I have a vast affection for, & except riding; there is no other exercise to^{be} us'd here, which makes it necessary either for me to keep a Horse or hire a poor miserable hack to take an Airing twice or thrice a Week. the Distance of 4 or 5 miles into^{to} Country for the Benefit of my Health. —

There is nothing now, which interrupts my tranquility, but the melancholy Subject of your last Letter, & the uneasiness I fear my poor Mother suffers on that account, I myself could not withstand the Shock, but like a Woman gave myself up entirely ~~up~~ to melancholy for several Days, I shou'd most gladly have answer'd your Favor when Doctor Cooper did & have endeavoured to administer some comfort to my distressed Parent, but my Mind was too much agitated to admit a thought, & was illy capable to give others what, it stood so much in need^{of} itself. But I am perswaded your goodness left no stone unturn'd to render this shock as easy as possible, And I think the only & most effectual means to remove from Her Mind the Impressions of my Poor Sister, is to carry her from home for some considerable Time, for every thing at Mount Vernon must^{put} Her in mind of her late Loss. shoud this thought of mine be approv'd of, the seeing of you at this Place would render me extremely Happy and answer fully the end of Her Comeing. Doctor Cooper was speaking

to me on this Head the other Day, & said then, that He would write to you to that effect, and recommend it as strongly as He could. if you should approve of this Scheme & will let me know beforehand I will exert myself in getting you Lodgeings, & every thing else convenient. D^r Cooper has some thoughts of takeing a tour to the Southward & of making you a Visit this Fall, which if he does I shall accompany him, as there is a Vacation then of four or five Weeks.

before I conclude I must beg you to write me immediately on the receipt of this Letter, as I am extremely anxious to hear how my Mother bears this Misfortune, & of your own Health, & be certain that I shall do every thing in my Power; to prevent your good advice being thrown away upon me.

I am with sincere regard & effection

your's

JOHN PARKE CUSTIS

FROM JOHN PARKE CUSTIS TO MRS. WASHINGTON.

KINGS-COLLEGE July 5th

MY DEAR MAMMA,

I have at length the Pleasure of informing you that I am settled in every respect according to my Satisfaction. There has Nothing been omitted by the Professors, which could be in any means conducive to my Happiness, & contentment; during my residence at this place, and I beleive I may say without vanity that I am Look'd upon in a particular

Light by them all, there is as much Distinction made between me, & the other Students as can be expected. I dine with them (A liberty that is not allow'd any but myself) associate & partake of all their recreations, their Attention to my Education keeps pace with their other good offices, and from their Words, as well as, Actions, I have reason to form the most pleaseing Hope of Pleasure, & ^{entertainment} Satisfaction in the pursuit of my Studies. It does not become me to Speak much in praise of my own attendance but I assure you that I have done as much or more ^{in 2 months} than in the eight Months before, and I flatter myself you will never hear any thing but what is agreeable from Doctor Cooper or any other of the Professors.

It is now time to give you a short plan of my apartments, & of my way of living. I have a large parlour with two Studys or closets, each large enough to contain a bed, trunk, & couple of chairs, one I sleep in, & the other Joe calls his, my chamber & parlour are paper'd, with a cheap tho very pretty Paper, the other is painted; my furniture consists of six chairs 2 Tables, with a few paultry Pictures; I have an excellent Bed, & in short every thing very convenient & clever. I generally get up about Six or a Little after, dress myself & go to chappel, by the time that Prayers are over, Joe has me a little Breakfast, to which I sit down very contentedly, & after eating heartily, I thank God, & go to my Studys, with which I am employ'd till twelve than I take a walk & return about one dine with the Professors, &

after dinner study till Six at which time, the Bell always ^{rings} for Prayers they being over College is broak up, & then we take what Amusement we please.

Things My dear Mother were going on in this agreeable Manner, till last Thursday, the day I receiv'd Pappa's melancholy Letter, giveing an account of my dear & only Sister's Death. I myself met the Post, & brought the sad Epistle to Doctor Cooper; who I beg'd to open his Letter immediately, the Direction I did not know, but the Seal I knew too ^{well} to be deceiv'd, my confusion & uneasiness on this occasion is better conceiv'd than expesst. Her case is more to be envied than pitied, for if we mortals can ⁱdstinguish between those who are deserveing of Grace & who are not, I am confident she enjoys that Bliss prepar'd only for the Good & virtuous. let these considerations, My dear Mother have their due weight with you, & comfort yourself with refecting that she now enjoys in substane what we in this world enjoy in ^aimagination, & that there is no real Happiness on this side of the Grave. I must allow that to sustain a Shock of this kind requires more Philosophy than we in general are possest off, my Nature could not bear the Shock, but sunk under the load of oppression, and hinderd me from adminstring any consolation to my dear & nearest relation; this Letter is the first thing I have done since I receiv'd the melancholy News, & could I think my Presence wou'd be condusive to the Restoration of your Tranquillity neither the distance nor the Fatigue of traveling

cou'd detain me a moment here. I have put myself & Joe into deep Mourning & shall do every Honour in my power to the Memory of a deceas'd & well belov'd Sister, I ^{will} no longer detain you on a subject which is painful to us both, but conclude with beging you to remember you are a Christian & that we ought to submit with Patience to the divine Will, &, that to render you happy shall be the constant care
of your affectionate & dutiful Son

JOHN PARKE CUSTIS.

NEW-YORK
July 5th 1773.

FROM COLONEL FIELDING LEWIS.

July 7th 1773

DEAR SIR

On examining my papers I find that M^r Charlton paid me only Two hundred pounds owing to my mistake in returning him part of the Money he had paid me for the whole Bills w^{ch} he was to have had, I must endeavour to convince him of the matter when I go down or I must lose it; M^r Montgomery gave me no reason for not paying the Money, only that he could not advance it. M^r Whiting will pay it on demand I dare say. I only sent you the Acc^t of my last transaction at W^mburg by M^r Washington I should have stated the whole Acc^t and sent the Balance but as there was between Twenty & Thirty pounds to pay M^r Fraⁿ : Thornton for pailing y^e Lott I immagin'd we might settle at our next meeting.

I am a Stranger to M^r Mercers Affairs but am apprehensive the heavy debts his Father left with his

Brother George's long stay in England must have distressed him greatly, as the Mortgage he gave you was not recorded I think he cannot refuse to give another, or ^{other} satisfactory Security for its difficult to say who at present is safe, I am likely to suffer Two hundred pounds by M^r Roger Dixon who used to say he was worth £20,000—indeed I think where any person refuses to give undoubted security for Money but the principle should be got as soon as possible. Our Crop Wheat is large, the quallity not so good as last I finish'd on Munday & I think there may be on an Average Twenty grains in a head thro' my Crop, its said here you will make Nine Thous^d bush^{ls} I wish it may be so, it will make a pritty Sum after grinding, I can't immagine M^r Adams motive for giving 5/ for Wheat, as our last advices from Urope were that the Crops were promissing, The distress of the Merch^{ts} in England will prevent any Commⁿ or very few will ^{be sent} ~~come~~ over to buy Wheat, indeed times are so very precarious that I dont know any body that would, chuse to purchase on Commⁿ as the risque is more than equal to the Comⁿ Money very scarce. no person this way will engage for any & the Crops on James River are I am told near double, so that I cannot account for M^r Adams conduct, perhaps the frost has destroy'd the Wheat in Pensylvania & the Jerseys w^{ch} I think we must have heard off was it so; Flower is a drug in the West Indies and in Virginia no Money to be had for it, in short I am determined to give no more than 4/ untill I am convinced it will be my In^t to give more w^{ch} I do not expect, M^r Adams cannot buy

all the Wheat let him get his Quantity and he will be satisfied. As the heat of the Weather will damage your flower I think you had best get clear of it as soon as you can the Biscuit Stuff will sell readily at Norfolk at 10/ Corn on this River may be bought at 10/, no purchasers for Money at any price, Corn & Flour has been very high as I am [mutilated] but you may depend by the time you could send them [mutilated] be as bad as any in the West Indies. I shall prefer [mutilated] but if you chuse to have Bills I advise the sending of it to Lisbon or Cadiz and order the proceeds, to be remitted to y^r Friend in London tho' I had rather take 10/ than Ship it any where if it was mine, You cannot get the best Wines from Madeira for Corn, or flower, Bills only will command the best sort; You may get of the New York Quality which is the best they will send you for goods altho' You Order the highest price to be given, I intend to be in Frederick the beginning of August on my way to the Springs but must dispatch my Brigg before I go, she being just come up & is to load Tob^o for Liverpool. poor Patsys death must have distressed M^{rs} Washington very much, but when she considers the unhappy situation she was in and the little probability of ever getting well, she must conclude that it's better as it is, as ~~in all for~~ there was little appearance of her ever being able to enjoy Life with any satisfaction

I am D^r Sir your most

Affectionate

Hum Serv^t

FIELDING LEWIS

FROM THOMAS NEWTON, JR.

NORFOLK July 22. 1773 —

SIR

I Received your favors of the 5th & 10th of this month, shall take care to follow your directions in shipping the midlings & hope you'll have a good sale of them. the vessel will sail in fifteen or sixteen days from this she has been detain'd longer that I expected owing to some necessary repairs; I shall be glad to know if you'd choose to have these midlings insured & whether it should be done here, the insurance from this to Madeira is from two & half to three p^{c} we have no sale for Indian Corn at present I do not think we cou'd get 10/ Cash for it & unless a hurricane happens in the West Indies I really believe it will fall very much I will apply to M^r Hite and pay him the money I receive for the goods sold on your acc^t and give him the acc^{ts} sales. I am

Y^r Most Ob^t

THOMAS NEWTON JR.

PS

I should have answered your letters before but have been very sick. I also received yours inclosing an order for wine for your ward you may depend that I will take particular care to send it as you direct —

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

YORKE COUNTY, 23^d July 1773 —

SIR/

when your Letter^{came} down I was at the Easten shore to make Inquirey about the Tob^o to know if it was Carried on board the Ship As I never Coud hear & when I got over found it was, & Never has been right well Since for I was Catchd in a squall & being much afrighted & Sea Sick withall have not yet recovered; The Tob^o was Brought on board the 3^d of this month As soon as I returnd Cap^t Peterson was ready to give me the Bills of Lading & was to go^{sail} the first fair wind there was 90^{Hhds} in all with yours with that one for the Rent in Hanover The crop of corne on the Eastenshore is Tollerable Likely & there oats but Midling the overseer sowd 120 Bushels but they had Great waist in the Mowing please to let me know if you want all that is made for y^r own Use & Whether any must be disposed off I intended to [have] removed old biggs & put M^r Tandey over there but the old Man begs to continue he is very carefull but I think I coud have more made by mak^s wheat then he makes by mak^s oats but he thinks not & Petisions as he has been so long in the Estate that you woud let him Still continue & I have postponed turn^s him of till I consult you he has five Negroes with a young suck^s one & 3 Horses with a mare & colt which he says he finds the Hole out of His share & insists they are no expence to y^e Estate & appears to be Vastly carefull of what he has under

his care otherways tho think I coud have more maid then he makes for I dont think his conduct is quite so good as some others I coud chuse provided you insist to make the most I can he must go off unless you are a mind to indulge the old man as an old Slave in the Estate.

respect^s that suit on the Easten Shore I realy did not know in what manner to order it tho Col^o Pendleton advises me to bring Suit in County Court & upon an appeal we may come at much sooner than to sew [sue] to the Gen^l co' & I was at a loss to know in what manner to order the Suit but at last thought sew him for a trespass tho there is three or four old Standers that will sware hard ags^t us, & thought it might be Easily determind if I coud find how old Col^o Custiss land was bounded if it was Purchased or Patented for that is all y^e young man Claims by is what them three old Standers has to say — & if you can inform me whether any Part was Purchased & where I must Serch for the deed suppose it must be Enterd upon Record I had a Notion of Serch^s the Record but thought I would write to you first I saw one old Custis Kendall who says old Col^o Custis was his Uncle & that he will Sware his Uncle has had the Land in his Possession 40 Years & had not left him but a Little while before I heard from aNother Person that he had Said that it was the young mans Property that I am ^{to} put^{to} it to know how to Act as I look upon it they have taken Possession in this way that we may shew our Title & to be at no Expence him self; Tho at all Events have instructed Biggs to sew him for a

Tresspass but it is Possable you can inform^{me} how to Carry it on for that is the only Plea I have is hav^e Possion on it for a Considerable time some Says the Col^o Purchased part of ^{yo} Tract of one Willett who is the Person this young man Claims from; by marry- ing some of The Family which if the Col^o Purchased any Land of this Willitt The deed will inform us how it was bounded the Man that now Claims it is named Southy Nelson & fixt a Ten^t much to the Prejudice of our Plantation for he Keeps a tipling house at the Gate where there is a Company frequently leav^e open the gates & by all acc^t Purchases come of Negroes & Every other thing that he lives on

I once thought I should have had the pleasure of Writeing to you that I had as Likely a Prospect as coud have Possibly been Expected from ~~the~~ so poor a Piece of Earth at my Plantation^{where I live} but it is Very far from it now for we have not had as much rain as to wet the Earth one Inch for 7 or 8 Weeks which make Every thing Look very Shockingly they have been more Seasonable up the Country — y^e Mourng was Sent by the Post Which I hope got Safe to hand I was much put to it to Get the Post to under- take, for our fellow Billey who is the only one that coud agone & he has been down with the measles & a Violent Lax & Vometing that follow it which have carried A Number of People off Ab^t us he is now very Ill & have not yet imployd a Doctor or they Have had bad Success to those where they have been imployd tho Shant Trust to my Judgm^t in

case it should have a change for the worse If you have not sent your Mem^o Home I have thought Proper to mention our being in Great want of Salt & Cant get any under 2/3⁰ Bush! & want to advise with you if would not come Cheaper to import^{Salt} as all the Plantations are in want of Bags to send for Sacks of Salt Except your Plantation I was obliged to purchase Bags in Town & for one of the others I have made Use of some of the Rolls as it was very Good & provided we had aplenty Should have Supplied more with the Same Which I think will answer very well as we Generally go to mill in Carts — As soon as the Merchants brake up I shall go up to see about that Suit in New Kent I had A Mans Deposition to take before I orderd A suit that M^r Dandridge Might peruse it which I have been much Put to it to get & cant tell whether it is done yet I left instructions with one of the overseers to get it & give it to M^r Dandridge when I was up Last which was the begining of Harvest I dont at this^{time} recollect any thing more

But remⁿ your M^o Hble Serv^t

JAMES HILL

FROM THOMAS ADDENBROOKE, ESQ.

SIR

In December 1771 I took the liberty to write to you requesting the Favour of you to Enquire After An Estate in Virginia that I had a right to not being favour'd with Your Answer makes Me imagine my letter Miscarried

by some papers in my Custody I find my Great Grandfather (by my Mothers side) Walter Broadhurst left a Widdow who Married M^r John Washington of Westmoreland County I suppose an Ancestor of yours by which I have the Honour of being related to you — My Grandfather came to England very young left a Brother whose name was Gerrard Broadhurst, at Virginia who died after a Short illness at the House of M^r Lawrence Washington in Christmas 1677 and ^{left} all his real and personal Estates to My Grandfathers Children of whom I am the Only descendant, his plantations Were Situated at Nemanie in the County of Westmoreland, he left M^r Nicholas Spencer and M^r Washington Trustees for My Grandfathers Children, upon the Death of My Grandfather My Mother and her sisters sent one Penson to manage the plantation and very imprudently trusted him with their papers Penson made remittances for some time but for a great many years past took no Notice of them but possessed himself of the Estate and as I am informd his son now enjoys it — I shall think myself greatly Obliged if you will favour me with a line, if you think the Estate is recoverable or not, what may be the Value, and if It woud Answer for me to come over, I am told that According to your Laws No time takes away my right. I hope you will excuse the Freedom I take in giveing you this trouble but presumeing you are a relation Occasion^d me takeing this freedom, and hope you will favour

me with an Answer as Soon as Convenient Directed
to Sir

Your Very Humble Serv^t To Com^d

26 July 1773

THO^s ADDENBROOKE
at Coalbrookdale near
Shiffnal Shropshire
England

FROM THE REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER.¹

[A Copy.]

MY DEAR SIR,

I persuade myself you and M^r Washington as well as the hospitable [illegible] family you are in will readily excuse my not waiting on you, when I assure you that nothing should have prevented me, but my being in a situation which renders me totally unable. It is but the third time I ever had the toothache, and no ideas I had formed how painful so slight a cause could be are adequate to what I have felt and still feel I have gone thro' all the nostrums to no purpose; like Macbeth it has murdered sleep beyond the power even of laudanum to recall.

Making sure of being with you last evening or the Saturday, I ran out Mr Custis's account, which if it be right, you will much oblige me by leaving me a Bill on London for the amount. You spoke last year, I remember, of my having to allow you something on the score of Exchange; but I see I have made a mem: in your letter that the state of it then

¹ This copy, inserted in the manuscripts in lieu of the original, is very illegibly written.

was in Annapolis as I had said. You will now please to be guided by the information you will receive from his Excellency and Mr Calvert. The inclosed letter from Jack may not be unacceptable to Mrs Washington nor perhaps *to somebody else*; at the same time that it justifies a little, I hope not unbecoming pride in me. I have often owned with shame and terror [?] that I did not do so much for him as I could or ought, but I really did more than I feared you thought, or than many would who appear more regular & attentive

It is peculiarly vexing to be interrupted & disappointed in the pleasure I had promised myself from this visit to a family and some friends, I am proud to rank by far the nearest to me. Your humanity will plead my apology to them, and in the hurried, distracted condition I am placed to write, excuse my adding more than

that I am with great regard

Y^r most obed^t serv^t

J. BOUCHER —

2, Aug^t 1773

FROM CAPTAIN JOHN POSEY.

ROVERS DELIGHT¹ Aug^t 9th 1773

SIR/

You have granted me many Favors since I have been Acquainted with you — I am now Reduc'd Very Low — And Advanc'd in years — I have noe Per-

¹ The name of Captain Posey's place on the Potomac.

son in the world to Apply to, for Assistance — And Really am not Able to work — Pray would you be kind Enough to Let me have the Some About £50 — Maryland Currancy I think with^{that} Some I could fix myself for Life, and not to want Again — If I should not Succeed with my Plan — you may Depend I will Return the first of Aprill — And Doe any kind business for you that I Can — If I Die in Few month you will Luse Principle & Interest If not you would be shore of it I wanted to mention'd this Affaire to you when I was at Your house — but I Could not have the Face to Doe — I am to Return by first next month If I Can — You have never mention'd S^t Lawrence to me since I have been at y^r house — I suppose you heard he was in a Barr — If you knew the Truth, I am not so much to blame, as you may think for, while I was over here Last summer S^t Lawrence was taken sick at M^r Pattons — M^r W^m Minor Living neare there having Regard for me, and S^t Lawrence — he took him home — he tend'd I beleave in Minors Barr for near three months — y^r Letter that you kind^{ly} wrote M^r Francis Baker that you would Pay Broad & Schooling for S^t Lawrence — I never gave it M^r Baker — I beleave I have Lost it Baker acquaint'd me he wrote you & sent his Acc^t — You nev[er] sent Ret'd[?] to Pay Baker — M^r Moor P^d him in June Last — I am y^r ob^t Se^r

JN^O POSEY

FROM THOMAS NEWTON, JR.

M^r: Hill has the Sales of Flour & herrings.

SIR

I have Just time to inform you I have paid M^r: Hill one hundred and ninety five pounds, and one hundred & ten dollars in the whole two hund^d & twenty eight pounds. I am sorry that I cou'd get no more but am in hopes the whole sales will be paid at the next meeting. I have not been home since I received yours for examining the seconds but will follow your direction's and make the most of them shou'd they prove bad. I am

Sir

Y^r: Hble Serv^t

WILLIAMSBURG August
13th 1773

THOMAS NEWTON JR

FROM EDWARD ANDERSON.

ANNAPOLIS 13th August 1773

SIR

Col: Thomas Colvill having bequeathed "unto the "Youngest Daughter of M^r: William Anderson Merchant in London the Sum of Eighty Pounds Sterling" — I beg leave to inform you that Harriot Rebecca Anderson is the youngest Daughter of M^r: William Anderson, & that her Guardian M^r: Rebecca Anderson has sent me a Power of Attorney to receive that Legacy —

As it would be inconvenient for me to wait upon you at present, & my Residence on the Eastern

Shore will prevent my seeing you, when you may be in this Province, I shall be obliged to you to pay that Money into the Hands of M^r Anthony Stewart of this Place; & you will please to write to him by return of Post whether you can make immediate Payment, or whether you judge it necessary for me to take any further Steps previous to your paying the Money — I am Sir

Your obed^t humb: Servant

EDWARD ANDERSON ¹

FROM COLONEL JOHN ARMSTRONG.

CARLISLE 17th August 1773

DEAR COL^t: —

Such is the uncertainty of human affairs, that I have again the unexpected occasion of giving you a Letter on Some business, which if it is to be done at all, it seems must be transacted in your Government.

Sundry Gentlemen who had formerly held Military Commissions in the Pay of Pennsylvania &

¹ TO — M^r EDWARD ANDERSON —

To the care of M^r Ant^y Stewart

SIR,

Your favour of the 13th of last Month came to my hands a few days ago. — you will be pleas'd Sir, for the justification of Col^t Colvills Exp^{ts}, to have the Pow^r of Attorney sent you by the Guardian of Miss Harriot Rebecca Anderson recorded in the Court of this County (Fairfax) after which the Money shall be paid to you on your Order. — This Step we are told, is essential to our justification, and will therefore plead an excuse I hope, for the trouble we are forced to give you on this occasion

I am Sir

Y^r Most H^{ble} Serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON

MOUNT VERNON }
Sep^r. 10th 1773 }

Serv'd in conjunction with the Establishd troops, have lately fallen upon a method of asking their respective Quotoes of Land (pursuant to his Majesty's Proclamation) within the jurisdiction of Virginia, prompted I presume partly by Captⁿ Bullets Advertisement (wc^h by the by I never well understood) and partly as they inform me by assurances given them by some Gentleman from Virginia whos Name I forget, that Lord Dunmore wou'd undoubtedly order Patents to all such Officers as shou'd produce Governor Penns Certificate of their Commissions & Service as above; In consequence whereof we have Sent off Captⁿ W^m Thompson¹ to attend Captⁿ Bullet at the Mouth of Sioto, who is furnish'd with Our Governors Certificate &c in order to get the Lands Survey'd in that new Country. On the 6th, 1st of July Thompson arriv'd at the mouth of Sioto, but found that M^r Bullet had left that place and was gone quite out of his reach to the Falls or a place called *Bigg-bone* not expected to return till Spring or Summer next

Lick. [^] This being the Case Captⁿ Thompson writes us, that as the lands are Survey'd on the Front of the River (on the South Side) a great distance above & below the mouth of Sioto, he is determin'd to go back from the River & lay Out & Survey the lands expecting that thro' the good Offices of Some Gentlemen of your country, those Surveys to be made for the Officers by him, may be accepted & approv'd in the land-office of Virginia — and indeed 'tis now evident to me, that if this favour cannot be obtain'd, we fall through, and shall be Subjected to a con-

¹ General William Thompson, of Carlisle, Pa.

siderable loss of expense. having thus Stated the whole as far as I know it & being totally a Stranger to the usage & conduct of your Government, I now on behalf of a great number as well as my Self who always respect your name, beg to be favour'd with your advice, whether this thing is practicable, and if you think it is, by what Steps or means you shou'd ^{be of Opinion} it may best be attain'd — and to this favour I shou'd never doubt the addition of your Salutary influence if at all in your way, or not contrary to y^r Judgment. I expect D^r Mercer will either write or wait on you on the same errand of this letter.

Permit me to add, 'tis very possible Thompson may get nothing done (altho' he has about Sixty Men of whom there are Several Surveyors in expectation of being deputed by Captⁿ Bullett for the sake of dispatch) as of four Men with ten or twelve Pack Horses which he Sent by land, at Set of Villains of the Minggo Tribe for such I'm told is their Character has actually Kill'd One or two of the Men & taken all the Horses &c of which Thompson knew nothing when he wrote.¹ Tis also said they are ill pleas'd with Bullets going down the River — but the Shawanees at least appear to disapprove the act of the Minggoes mention'd above. Time prevents me to add farther, than

That I am with perfect respect, Your Most Ob:
humb^l Servant

JOHN ARMSTRONG

¹ "The whole of the Delawares, Shawnose and Six Nations in this Country are much alarm'd at Capt Bullett & Capt Thompson going down ye River with numbers of people to Settle a Country wh they were Informed by the Kings Messages was not to be settled." — Letter from George Croghan to Thomas Wharton, published in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*.

FROM MR. THOMAS GLASCOCK.¹RICHMOND COUNTY Aug^t 22. 1773

SIR.

I have seen your Advertisement in the Gazate for the disposal of your lands on the Banks of the Ohio and the Kanhawa's,² You have not been so particular as to mention that the Leases are to be for Years or lives, but I am willing to suppose they are intended for Life or Lives, and therefore (as I am now in the Gout, And consequently Cannot be at the meeting of the Ohio Company, where I might probably see you in person) Write, and desire that you will lay me out 500 Acres of as good land as I may have a right to expect, and as near the supposed intended seat of Government as possible, to which (as soon as I can receive advice that it is really done and where) I will repair, With the remains of my shattered fortune, and shall farther hope that the Lease will be for my life at least, and one or two I shall hope for, Of this you will be kind enough to advise me as soon as may be that I may sell out and be

¹ An English name of antiquity. If the threadbare tradition of the "three brothers" is correct, there is another family of this name in Virginia which descended from "three brothers of the name who came from France with La Fayette, fought through the Revolution with him, and located in Va., married and raised families on the James River." (Power's *Sangamon Co.*, iii. p. 331.) Lieut. Thomas Glasscock, of Virginia, served in the Continental Line. . . . Bishop M. names the Glasscock family as among the prominent ones of Richmond Co. from 1692 to 1775. — HAYDEN.

² In an advertisement dated July 15, 1773 (see Ford's *Writings of Washington*, vol. i. p. 386), which appeared in *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, and in *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, Washington offered his lands upon the Ohio and the Kanawha for lease in desirable quantities. In a letter to Henry Riddell, February 22, 1774, he enters into an explanation of his scheme for importing "Palatines, or people from Ireland or Scotland," at his own expense, to settle on these lands.

ready for movement as soon as may be, in the Interim
I am Sir

Your devoted hble Ser^t

THOMAS GLASSCOCK

P. S. Could I serve you in the Capacity
of a Clerk, (tho' my pain now vexes
me) or in any other capacity, so that
there may not be too much travelling
I shall hope for your favours —

T G —

=====

FROM BENEDICT CALVERT, ESQ.

[A Copy.]

DEAR SIR,

I rec'd yours by Major Jennifer at Annapolis and have given orders to my deputy to look out for such a person as you want. He tells me that Tradesmen well recommended sell very high. I have desired him to buy none but such. I was in hopes to have had the pleasure of attending the Gov^r to M^r Vernon; but some business at my office on the Eastern Shore obliged me to set off on Sunday. I expect to be back the last of next week. If you have any commands there, shall be glad to execute them. I am very much obliged to you for the wheat you were so kind as to spare me — I wish mine in return had been better. Every body here joins in their respectful

Compliments — Nelly who goes with the Gov^r will deliver hers in person.

I am, D^r Sir, Y^r most obed^t

BENED^t. CALVERT.

MOUNT AIRY

Aug^t 25. 1773.

FROM DOCTOR JOHN CONNOLLY.

PITTSBURGH August 29th 1773.

D^R. SIR.

I have lived some time past in the greatest hope of seeing you at this place; but whatsoever might have deterred my happiness in that respect must be attributed to purposes superior to my expectations; tho if consistent with your happiness nothing inferior to my warmest wishes. — Lord Dunmore hath done us the honour of a visit,¹ I dare not presume to give my opinions touching the Character of so considerable a Personage, but ~~if~~ I flatter myself I shall not widely differ from your sentiments if I conclude him to be a Gentleman of benevolence & universal Charity, & not unacquainted with either Man or the World. — I have his Lordships promise for 2000 Acres of Land at the Falls of the Ohio, which will induce me to wait upon his Excellency this Fall at Williamsburgh, & in the excursion, I have the satis-

¹ Burk (*History of Virginia*, vol. iii. p. 374) ascribes to Lord Dunmore something more than idle curiosity in his prolonged visit to Pittsburg, and accuses him of then selecting Connolly as his instrument in the unfortunate scheme that later on involved him in such difficulties, — the scheme "to engage Virginia and Pennsylvania in a civil war about their territorial boundary, and to rouse once more to arms the warlike tribes of savages, whose fury had so often deluged the western settlements with blood." Later historians, however, scout the idea that such motives should be attributed to Dunmore.

faction to hope I shall have the agreeable opportunity of enjoying your Company on my Journey thither, in making your house a Stage. —

I have been at the expence of sending a person from this place to survey the Falls, not having a sufficient dependance upon Capt^t Bullit, whose Aerial Schemes have urged him to act in an extravagant manner; laying off Towns, & Townships every sixty miles upon the River; & corresponding to his Ideas has concluded the Falls to be a proper place for such intention, amongst others. — The Bearer of this M^r Wilper a german Gentleman has been with him & reports him to be so extraordinary a Genius, that I am glad I have had his Lordships permission to appoint a person to transact my business in that Country. Comparing the Date of this Letter with my expectations of your arrival here, urges me to think that I must postpone the pleasure of seeing you, untill I may have the honor of giving you a personal Visit, which will at any rate, be highly satisfactory to him who is with respect

D^r Sir

your most obed^t Serv^t

JN^o CONNOLLY

FROM MR. GILBERT SIMPSON.

August : ye : 31 : 1773

S^R With the almighty's permission I Will do my Endeavour To See your Land Tax discharged before the Last of next Week from this date and S^r I hope To See you before you Go To Williamsburg but

For Feare any Thing Should happen That I Could not Com inn as Soon as I hope To do I Beg the Favour of you To Leve all That is To be don With M^r Lum Washington Which is one Good Stanch Negrow Fellow That understands how To work With horssees and other plantation business and one youngish Negro Woman and money To Carrey on your Mill For if the Mill Should not be begun This Fall The provisions must Cheifly be Laid in This Fal Whil it is To be had For I inten To have her begun Early in the Spring provided I Cant begin This Fal Which I Would do With all my heart but I am affrade it Will [be] Late before I Can moove my Family out heare is one Joseph Croos Who says he has don Sum Work at your Mill and Says your Miller know him perfectly Well and he is Said To be an Exstronary Mill Right and is at work on a Mill For M^r Simon Triplet at This Time Who Gives him a dollar a day and alows that he is very Worthy of his higher and the said Croos says he Will undertak To buld your Mill if he and I Could agree and I Told him that I would Give him and answer after I saw you again So S^r I Would be Glad you inQuire of your Miller and by that means you Would Likely Find out his workmanship as I Expect the Miller is a Good Judg of Mill work

S^r I Send you inClosd the vallue of my horse and Gun and Remains your humble Ser To Commd

GILB^t SIMPSON

LOUDOUN

FROM DANIEL CARROLL, ESQ.¹ROCK CREEK Sep^r 1st 1773

SIR,

In the winter 1771 I received a letter from a Merch^t of my acquaintance in Galway, in Ireland, strongly recommending, some Irish families, who had embark'd for America: These poor people, finding they cou'd not live under the exactions of their Landlord, on their leases falling, resolv'd to venture into this part of the world, were able to pay their passages, & bring with them some family goods, & working utensils; besides the particular, & strong recommendation I received, they will shew you the testimony given in their Favor by the Mayor, & principal inhabitants of Galway. They have had house room, & fireing on my land since their arrival: The men have work'd abroad, & by their Conduct, justified the recommendations given of them, & I am certain will be of Singular Service wherever they Settle, particularly in making meadows to which they have been chiefly accustom'd: Thus much in justice to these poor people, I have thought proper to say, as they have an intention of treating with you about some of yr back land; Three of these men have been as far back as Buffaloe land over the Monongahela — Upon their report, they had all concluded, to move with their families, & occupy lands, as many others have done, in expectation of haveing the refusal, when the property is ascertained; but on seeing your ad-

¹ Brother of Archbishop Carroll, and one of the commissioners for laying out the Federal City.

vertisement, I adviz'd them to wait on you, & know yr terms. I have reason to expect, if these people settle themselves to their Satisfaction, a very Considerable number of their relations will be soon with them, who are now only waiting to hear from them: It woud not I apprehend be bad pollicy in those who may possess large bodys tracts of land to lay out a Glebe for a Clergyman, this wou'd have considerable weight with many Irish Roman Catholicks, who woud probably bring their own Clergyman with them. I intended myself taking a trip into these new Countries as they are call'd, & purchasing some land if the terms & title were agreeable, in hopes of making it turn to advantage, as my Connections in Ireland, enable me to procure a number of very industrious settlers, & among them some of property with whom, I correspond. I have lately received a letter dated New York July 26th from M^r Foxcroft one of the 72 intended proprietors, by which I find the Charter was not then obtaind: shou'd matters be settled, time enough this fall, I shall putt my resolution into execution, & if you intend to make an excursion that way, shall be glad to attend you — & am, Sir with esteem,

Yr most Ob^t Serv^t

DANIEL CARROLL

FROM ROBERT H. HARRISON, ESQ.

ALEXANDRIA Sept 8. 1773

SIR

I hope that my indisposition will be received as a sufficient excuse for my not having done your Lease

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sooner, and for the Several black lines and erasements in it, when done; had I been perfectly well, they should not have appeared; however I hope that it will appear sufficiently plain & legible for the printers — I have made it as short as I could, to be substantial which I flatter myself it is, in all its parts; indeed it is in substance, the same with yours, differ^e very little therefrom, but something in form — I think your Clause or Covenants N^o 1 & 2 very material & consistent; they give distinct Remedies, the former a distress, and the latter an Action of Debt or Covenant, which often times is of material use — I have Introd^d the right of Entry in case of Non-paymt of Rent & no distress to be found, under a Proviso which is more agreeable to Law, than by way of Covenant; the word Proviso being a favorite expression of our Law, to raise or imply a Condition for Suppor [mutilated] Ejectment in case the Lessee or any other should hold after breach — Tho I think in point of reason & in point of Law, that Covenant will Answer the purpose, but as the other has been used & approved^d by the Judges from the earliest period of english jurisprudence as the most proper, I have adopted it — It is not usual to Incur a forfeiture of the Lease upon breach of all the Covenants containedⁱⁿ this ~~Lease~~; however as It may be^{the} means of enforcing an exact compliance with & performance of the several matters, I think the whole proper enough; but should you apprehend that it may alarm any who may incline to be Lessees, you may draw your pen thro any part that you incline — You'l Ob-

serve that I have not Inserted the Heirs of the Lessees respecting the Estate, It would have been improper; It being a Term for years, it is a Chattel real and devolves in case of death not upon an Heir, unless he is Exor Admtr, but not as heir, Yet I have bound the Heirs for the performance of all the Covenants — Your Observtns about the unn⁷ multitude of Words & Repitns in Conveyances, are very just & can only be accounted for upon Principles of Interest, the longer the Deed the greater the price being the rule established when Scriveners formerly were paid [¶] Word or side — pecunia⁷ penalties would have Answered no purpose but what the Covenants within will — I have only to wish that it may be agreeable to your min [covered by seal] you conceive that it may want [covered by seal] alteration please to communicate it ^{with} _^ freedom and it shall be done by

D Sir

Yr most Ob Servt

ROB H: HARRISON

”

FROM ROBERT H. HARRISON, ESQ.

DEAR SIR

The Lease which you have & which I imagine you Intended to have sent, instead of an Inventory of Col Fairfax's Furniture &c, may be made to answer every purpose by an Erasement of the words, “his Executors, Administrators and Assigns in three “places. Viz have demised, granted & to farm letten

“ and by these presents do Demise, grant & to farm
 “ let unto the said

[his Executors, Admtrs & Assigns] — To have & to
 hold &c to the said [his Executors,

[Administrators & Assigns]. Those please to Erase
 and also the same in your Covenant in the end that
 he [his Exctors, Administrators & Assigns] shall
 Enjoy — And have blanks left in those places, &
 then you can fill them up accord^s to the estate you
 Intend to Grant — If for life, insert in these places,

to the said ^{for and during the life or lives as the case may be of}
 his Heirs or Assigns, — if for
 years to the said his Executors, Adminis-

trators or Assigns for & during the aforesaid Term
 of years — There is no [covered by seal] except
 the above between Leases for Lives & for years
 [covered by seal] the word Heirs should be inserted in a
 Lease for [covered by seal]. It would not affect its va-
 lidity in the least, but it would be nugatory and ap-
 pear to have been drawn by a person not skilled in
 the Laws of England; for by these Laws, All Leases
 for years as ~~before~~ Observed in my other Letter,
 devolve upon the Extrs or Admtrs of the deceased,
 tho limited to Heirs, They being a Chattles real & a
 Chattles cannot descend to one as Heir; Tis other-
 wise in case of a Lease for lives, they being a Free
 hold Estate, may descend — I hope that you will
 readily perceive how the Alterations may be made,
 and would wish you to direct the printer to leave
 large blanks in every case, in common they do not
 give room enough; I cannot very well account for
 my having thought that you wanted Leases for years

in preference to those for lives or why you might not use both; If you think that any other alterations than those I have ment^d should be material or If they will not Answer upon your look^s at the Lease, I will most chearfully make one anew

I am Sir

with very

great regard

Yr most Ob H St

ROB H HARRISON

Sept 11. 1773

FROM ROBERT ADAM, ESQ.

SIR

The Pall or Black Cloath that was sent down to you on a late Occation M^r Carlyle Informs me was Originally your property, but as we are yet unprovided with one in town we must request the favour of you to send it by the bearer — Our Friend and Acquaintance M^r Joseph Wattson Departed this life last night about Eleven OClock of a Bloody Flux, he neglected himself much in the begining of the dissorder & only begin to think seriously of it when too late — We have in generall been very Sickly but most people are now on the mending hand

I am Respectfully

Your Most Humb: Serv^t

ROBERT ADAM

he is to be intered this Evening
about 5 oClock

Sept 16th 1773

FROM THE REVEREND DR. COOPER.

D^r Cooper presents his most respectful Comp^t to Col^l Washington; & *returns* him his Son in Law, without any Vices that he knows of, and with many Virtues, wherewith he is perfectly acquainted.

His Assiduity hath been equal to his Rectitude of Principle; and it is hoped his Improvements in Learning have not been inferior to either.

KING'S COLL: NEW YORK,
20th Sep^r 1773. —

FROM MR. JOHN VARDILL.

KING'S COLLEGE, Sep^r 20 1773S^R

I have taken the Liberty of addressing a Letter to you, on a Subject extremely agreeable to me, & which, I am sensible, must be particularly so to you. The Conduct of your Son, during his Residence at this Seminary, has been such, as that it would be injustice to deny *him* the Intrite of Approbation he deserves, & *you* S^r the Satisfaction which a generous Parent must receive from the Reputation of one he loves. At a Period of Life in which the Passions are most violent he has discover'd a remarkable purity of Morals, &, when Gaiety invited him to pleasure, has with such constancy devoted himself to his Studies, as to give us the surest ground to expect that he will hereafter attain to that excellence which his natural powers render him capable of. When I inform you, that his Affability & Courtesy have endear'd him to mine, as well as to the Affec-

tion of all who are concern'd in his Education, you may suspect me of partiality: But this Friendship itself would prompt me to the strictest Sincerity in this Description, lest I might injure one whom I esteem, by imprudently lulling Parental Caution into a dangerous Security. If the Intrusion of this Letter wants an Apology, I can only confess, that I could not deny myself the satisfaction of giving this testimony to Merit, of presenting my humble respects to you S^r & your amiable Lady, of congratulating Her on the hopes that her Precepts & Example of Piety will be practis'd & imitated by her Son, & of professing myself, with all sincerity S^r

Your friend & humb^l serv^t

JOHN VARDILL

FROM MRS. SARAH BOMFORD.

SIR/

As neither M^r Savage nor I have had the honor of hearing from you since ^{your} Letter of the 20th of Sep^r Seventy two, we begin to apprehend her affairs are not in that prosperous situation we had reason to hope from your favors of that date, from this reflection, and from M^r Savages anxiety on account of her Circumstances being on so precarious a foundation, Life is almost a burthen too heavy for her to bear, She still exists on this hope that good Coll. Washington will not let her be betray'd into the hands of her persecutor, nor Suffer him by the Chicanery of the Law to ruin her intirely, and by that means bring down a Head now in the decline of Life (and formerly supported in the utmost ease and affluence) with Sorrow

to the Grave, I am at this present vastly distress'd, and really and truly at a Loss how to make a proper appology to Coll. Washington for the many troublesome Letters I have been under the necessity of writing to him on this Subject, for tho' a literary Correspondence with M^r Washington, wou'd, I'm sensible, do me great honor, and also be a most particular gratification, yet I'm well convinc'd Letters on Business are not agreeable either to receive or answer, I must therefore Sir, request your forgiveness on this occasion, and implore you on M^{rs} Savages account, who is at present in good health, but in the utmost misery and distraction of mind to let her hear from you in the speediest manner, that is — by the Post, she, unhappy Woman objects to this method of Conveying Letters because of the expence, but that for the future shall not deprive us, of the pleasure of hearing from you, as Coll. Washington's ^{Letters} give much satisfaction, M^r Bomford will most chearfully pay the Postage, the last intelligence we received from Virginia did not come to hand for Six Months after date, and now Six Months more are past, and not the least prospect of Letters by the way of Whitehaven, this Sir, if you wou'd please to recollect is an Age in M^{rs} Savages time of Life, I therefore shall for the future take the liberty of sending my Letters by the Packet, and humbly hope, you will, in pitty to her Misfortunes give her the Satisfaction of hearing from you as soon as possible —

I am Sir, with great respect,

Your Obedient, humble

Servant SARAH BOMFORD

DUBLIN,
FISHAMBLE STREET
Sep^r 27th 1773 —

FROM MR. RICHARD THOMPSON.

PHILEE, Sept^r 30th 1773

SIR,

In Answer to your Favour of the 22^d Current, I really find myself much discouraged by the Terms You propose to rent or lease out Lands on, that are situated on the Waters of the Ohio; and must confess that I think it impracticable for any one to comply with them, and to me they appear to be entirely inadmissible. My Objections are not confined to any particular Article, but if you please, I will make a few Observations, which, when duly considered, will, I am almost convinced, induce you in some Measure to coincide with my Opinion.

Will it not Sir, be readily admitted that the Increase or Population of a Country, is in a great Degree, owing to it's wholesome Laws and good Government? and as there is still a great Uncertainty with Respect to the Foundation of any Government at all where those Lands of yours lie; Can there be a Probability that People of Property or only in moderate Circumstances, will settle so remotely from some civil Authority? except such as do not regard any Authority at all. This Consideration must deter those of a quiet and peaceable Disposition, and who would be willing to become good Subjects of that or any other Province or State, from embarking on such a hazardous Enterprize. — Others indeed, less scrupulous in those Matters, and probably in desperate Circumstances, might venture themselves to the following End, — to get a Home for a Time and

desert it at Pleasure, without paying any Rent to, or performing the Services enjoined by, their Landlord. This wou'd have a double bad Effect, as the leased or rented Lands Would be deserted, and the industrious, honest People who staid behind, would find a Scarcity of Supplies in the commercial Way, on Account of this Depopulation, and that wou'd unavoidably deprive *them* of the Means to discharge their Rents.

Indeed from many unfavourable Accounts already received from Travellers, I am induced to prophecy, that the Population of the Country round Fort Pitt has encreased with more Rapidity for the last seven Years, than that down the River will for three Times seven to come.

I should be apt to think, that when you consider this Matter, you will be content to procure Tenants for your Lands on much easier Terms to them than those you now propose. — But to the Point.

If you can think of listening to such Terms as the following, which I wou'd be thought to infer are nearer in Proportion to the intrinsic Value of the Lands at this Time, and what, in all Probability they may be worth twenty or thirty Years hence, than those I am favoured with from you; there may be a Prospect of our coming to some Agreement.

1st It is proposed to have a Lease on a Quantity of Lands, not less than 5000 Acres, for thirty one Years, and then, at the Discretion of the Lessee, his Heirs or Assigns, renewable to the Period of ninety nine years from the first Date of the Lease, and thence forward forever, — on performing the following Articles and Conditions, — Viz —

2^{dly} That the whole be Rent free to the Lessee, so long as it is Quit-Rent free to you; and no Conditions or Performances enjoined him^{the s^d Lessee,} or his Heirs more than settling and cultivating one particular Plantation on the whole, during that Time; and from the Time that the Quit-Rents become payable, to pay you Rent for the first or next ensuing seven years, at the Rate of twenty Shillings Sterling for every hundred Acres and the Quitrents of the whole likewise, — for the next seven Years, 30/- Sterling & Quitrents, for the then remaining Part of the 31 Years, 40/: Sterl: and Quitrents — for the Residue of the 99 Years 50 Shillings Sterl: & Quitrents, and — from the Period of the 99 Years £5 .. Sterl: 30C: & Quitrents for ever.

3^{dly} The Lessee, his Heirs &c shall from the Commencement of the Lease, have full and ample Liberty to place on the said 5000, as many Sub-Tenants^{Acres} as he, his Heirs &c may think proper, provided that no more than three taxable Persons, in any one Year, after 20 Acres for every 100 thereof are cleared, shall be suffered to work on any Tenement of 100 Acres, and so in Proportion for a greater or smaller Quantity; and they shall all be enjoined by the said Lessee from Time to Time, to make such Improvements thereon as your other Tenants, who may hereafter rent Lands of you belonging to the same Tract or contiguous thereto, under a Penalty to be agreed on. But this shall never be understood to compel the Lessee or his Heirs to make any Improvements on the said Land further than they may think proper, and shall only be construed to relate to the Sub-

tenants he or they may at any Time contract with, either on Lease or otherwise.

But the Plan I have next in View, and which I humbly conceive will be very conducive to your Interest in Future, as well with Regard to the immediate Benefit resulting therefrom, as to the promoting a quick Settlement of your Lands in that Part of the World (though I do not presume to dictate) wou'd be your establishing a small Trade at the Place you are at present most desirous to have cultivated: and this is the Part I wou'd gladly embark in on your Account, if you are intent on adopting the Scheme. I have just thrown these few Hints together for your Contemplation, and if countenanced, will readily enter into a Detail of Matters agreeable to my own Sentiments; but fearing I may be deficient in Matters that may occur to you, I am in Hopes you will be kind enough to set me right where I may err, and to pardon the Errors likewise. As this is only intended by Way of Introduction to a personal Conference I must premise to you, that I must beg the Favour of you to keep the whole Matter a profound Secret until the Dissolution of my present Copartnership, as it might tend to do me an Injury if revealed, and that I am confident is neither your Wish nor Intention. I therefore subscribe myself very respectfully — Sir

Your most obed^t Servant

RICHARD THOMPSON

FROM MR. GILBERT SIMPSON.

October : the : 1 : 1773

S^R This is To Let you know That I have paid your money To Cap^t Crawford who says it has been already paid and I have Found all my affairs out heare well but very hard Seet to get any Carpenters work done and seems as hard seet To Get wagons To move me out and very dear if I Geet away and I am affraid I shall not Com down before you seet out for Williamsburg but as our out Goings is Great at First I hope in almighty God the inCom Will be Great at Last and I S^r beg you would LEEVE money To Support The partnership at present For as yet I do nont know how money will stand with me unteel I Return home For I Expect To be under nesessaty^{to} Credet out the Greatest part of my affairs at home For sum months and S^r pray let me have Two Negros of the kind I wrot To you For and S^r please To leeve The money For the mill For I beleive ther is no dout of her Going Teen months out of Twelve and I shall want 5000 Nails and Eight bushels of salt Four of Fine and Fore Cors Should be very Glad To See you but my being disapointed of Geting Carpenters has put me To as Great unplus but do Expect To be down by the 20 of the month and shall bring you Letters From Cap^t Crawford So S^r I Remand your humble Servant

GILB^t SIMPSON
YOUGHAGAHANAY

FROM THOMAS OLIVER.

MARLBOROUGH 2^d Oct^r 1773 —

SR/

I had forgot to request the favour of you To order
down by the vessel that comes For the Wheat a
Cask of the best flower. it will save me the trouble
of sending to M^r Brent's Mill. which in winter is
sometimes daingerous —

You'l Much Oblige

S^ryour Ob^t Hum^lSar^tTHO^s OLIVER

 FROM GOING LANPHIER.¹

SIR/

I am apprehensive that in the Bill of Scantling
that I sent you it was order^d so as to have the
Sleepers of Both the additions to Ly Length ways
with the house if so the will not be Right by that
means the floor will be aCross and the Gelling plank
the Length of the addition will not answer the in-
tended purpose of haveing no heading Joints in the
Lower floors, the S[l]eepers Need not be More then
16 feet Long to Join on a Summer in the Middle
that must be Layd Length ways of House, the Sleep-
ers Must be the same Breadth & thickness as them

¹ A joiner employed by Washington.

Mention^d in the Bill & the Two Summers 10 by 14
and 22 foot Long

I am Sir Y^r Most Hum^b Serv^t

GOING LANPHIER

NEW CHURCH Oct^r 16: 1773

N B I prepos^d from the
beginning to Lay the floor-
ing & seeling Jousts Length
way of the House it will be
a Great Means to Strength-
en the additions - - - G L

FROM MR. WILLIAM MILNOR.¹

PHILAD^a Octob^r 19th. 1773

HONOUR'D SIR/

Agreable to your request, I sent you 2 Y^ds Boul-
ting cloth, which I hope you have receiv'd ere now,

¹ For the following full and interesting note I am indebted to Hannah Milnor Ljungstedt (Mrs. Olof Ljungstedt), of Washington, D. C.

Born in New Jersey; settled near Falsington, Buck County, Penn.; finally made his home in Philadelphia, where he became a prominent merchant, and after the Revolution was appointed first gauger of the port, in which office he was succeeded by his son Isaac, and grandson Robert Milnor. He was anxious to obtain a captaincy in the regular army, but was dissuaded by family and friends. He made himself very useful, however, in carrying despatches, etc. (in a false-bottomed chaise), and for this and other services was disowned by the Friends. I have been told, but cannot verify, that his "reading out" was for owning slaves. He became a "Free and Independent Quaker," but before his death reunited with the regular body. William Milnor married Anna Brientnall, probably of the same family as the Joseph Brientnall mentioned by Franklin in his autobiography. "Joseph Brientnall, a copier of deeds . . . a great lover of poetry . . . writing some that was tolerable . . . very ingenious in making little knick-knackeries & of sensible conversation." Anna Brientnall Milnor died aged seventy-three, and was buried in the old graveyard at 5th and Arch streets, where Franklin lies. They had five children: Isaac, a merchant in Philadelphia, and, like his father, gauger of the port, married Hannah Parrish, and left descendants; Hannah married Rev. John Palmer Robinson, and Mary married William Dick. Although Isaac Milnor had eleven children, the male line in this branch is extinct. James (second son of William and Anna), a lawyer, for a while in Congress, became

'tis I think much finer than the sample I receiv'd from M^r Addams I am authorized by M^r Williams to inform you, that if it should not suite, he will take it again. —

The several Arcticles Cap^t Cox left with me for M^r Washington, I have ship'd on board of the sloop Norfolkpacket Cap^t Francis Gilbert bound to Allexandria and directed them to the Care of M^r William Herbert, M^r Dougherty the Owner of the Sloop, was fearfull of taking them on board, least they should cause his Vessel to be seized, it was in vain for me to Urge the Weakness of his timidity, I therefore at his request Packed them carefully in a fishbarrel with two Rows of Middletons biscuit at each End, an Account of which, I have sent to M^r Herbert —

Permit me, dear sir to remind you of our Salthouse and be Assured, that we will At any time Obligate ourselves to pay you the rent of it for any term of years you may think necessary, I am determin'd for my part to carry on the fishery with spirit & resolution,¹ your exceeding kindness, to us hitherto, is the greatest encouragem^t for us to proceed, & with the Permission of divine Providence under the Countenance of so great an encourager of Industry I fear not

finally a noted divine, and was rector for many years of St. George's Parish, New York. He married (Feb. 28, 1799) his "best of friends," Eleanor Pawling, and was for this marriage "read out of meeting." William (son of William and Anna) was in Congress, and later became mayor of Philadelphia. From him it is believed descended the Burlington branch, New Jersey. The Coates are also connected with this family by marriage or blood.

¹ There were in Philadelphia two fishing associations to which many men of prominence and social proclivities belonged. The earlier society, called "Fort St. David," had its house at the Falls of Schuylkill; the other, "State in Schuylkill," built their fishery on Rambo's Rock, below Gray's Ferry. Watson, in his *Annals of Philadelphia*, says that "much good living was enjoyed there." It is to the latter company that William Milnor refers, of which he was an enthusiastic member.

but our labours will be crown'd with success — be pleased (sir) to give my best respects to your Lady, to those young ladies I saw at your House & to M^r Lund Washington, & blieve me to be, Sir Your most Obedient Humble Ser^t

WILLIAM MILNOR

FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN BLAIR.

[A Copy.]

WMSBURG Nov. 9. 1773

SIR,

In the hurry I was in yesterday to finish my letter &c lest I should detain Miss Bassett too long, I believe I forgot to inform you that with respect to any claim which may now be made in Right of a deceased officer or soldier, it was the opinion of the Board that under the words of the King's proclamation it is necessary that such officer or soldier should have personally appeared to claim his proportion, and that when that has not been done, the claim cannot survive to his Representative.

Col Byrd has certified that Alex^r Finnie made personal application for the land he was entitled to, under the proclamation, & I understand his son is to have that.

In the order I sent you yesterday I mentioned how far the several grantees were interested in the different grants; which I thot' was proper that in case of any dispute that might arise on the partition hereafter to be made, it might appear from the order itself how it ought to be settled — But I suppose the

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forms of the Secretary's office will not admit of its being so expressed in the patents but that they will be made out in the same manner as to joint tenants equally interested.

I am, sir, yr most respectful

& obed Ser^t

JOHN BLAIR

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

SPRINGGARDIN Nov^r 12th 1773

SIR

I Received yours of July 27th Septem^r 25th and 26th [in] one of which you blame^{me} something in Regard to not Discovering those Lands nearly Opposite to the other Surveys on the Kanhaway, the two bottoms below the mouth of Porketalin I saw my self, but the land on Porketalin I did not see but sent the men I had hired to serch and see what sort of Land there was Whilst I was Runing the Other Side but they Diseved me and told me there was no Land worth taking and sence has went on the same and maid som small improvement^{with the} intend to hold them, but has Left them sence I Survey^d the Land those 2 Bottoms below the Porketalin when I Survey^d the Rest, seem^d to be much Overflow^d but not much more than other Bottom Was at that time nor dose any of the Kanhaway bottoms seem to have any signs of Overflowing more then Common sence that time nor from all Accounts they never was so sence any person I can hear of ~~that~~ ever was Equinted with the Country, som Large Freshet has bin in the

River Last Spring but none by many feet so High as that

As^{to} your Chance in your Lots of Land I think them much the best on the hole River from one end of the Surveys to the other, and those Gentlemen seem a good deal shagereen^d on the vewing them after there Lots was Laid of, as there front on the River was not over a Mile and half the most of them and Run back almost five mile and you in Cheif of your Survey s have all bottom as also Doctor Crages¹ Land none in that County is so good as your Land and his Land

You Each have they Advantegue of Cabins I beleve on every five hundred Acres of your Land on y^e Ohio Several of those Person ho had improved those Land com to me this fall and on seeing they Patent of those that went to Devid there Land Quit and went of in serch of Land for them Selves I indeavioured to Lease them som of your Land on the Ohio but never cold get any one to offer taking upon any tearms any of you or any of the Gentlemens Land The Reason those people set down they told me was that Col^o Croghan on[l]y of the Tr[a]ders told them the Officers and solders cold never hold one foot of the Land and farther told them that I had noe orders from the Governer to survey any Land on the Ohio it was only a skeem betwen you and my self

The only Chance you have to get Land setled is to get som of your People near whare you Live to

¹ Craik?

settle on it upon some lay or other, or bring up som hand and set them to work and Clear som Land and then you may Rent them for som thing and I beleve that will be the shurest way to improve your Land and with the Least Expençe, Several Person is waiting for your Lands Relapsing ho intends to fall on it imediatly should you com in the Spring please to Let me now, and also what number of hands and I will Provid you with Every thing in my Power such as vesels for to cary Down your people

Sir what I wrot you Relating [to] the uper Sur-vay in the Great Kanhaway I think you have not apprehended me in what I wanted, there is the full Quantity of Land of 200000 and 600 Over and above, besid^a that Sur-vay, I did [not] mean you should alow me any that should be the solders Property

Sir in my Last Letter to you I wrote you that Lord Dumore had promis^d me that in case the new Government did not take place before he got hom he would patent them Lands for me, if I would send him the Draft of the Land I Sur-vay^d on the mouth of the Little Kanhaway; now as my Claim as an officer cold not includ the hole, if you will Joyn as much of your Officers Claim as will tak the hole Sur-vay, and you shall think it nessesary, if you will, you may Depend I will ^{make} any Equil Devesion you shall propose: I told Lord Dumore the true state of the matter

Your Letters came to my hands not till the 15 [mutilated] and then I was ingaged with the Gentle-men hew was a going Down to Devid there Land. I Spook to Capt^e Bullet and he has promist me a

District of Surveying and has Promised me that he will wait on you on his way Down the Country and he has maid a survey he intends [mutilated] you, som he maid for him self, he seems to want [mutilated] Court your intrust much at this time, he has Se [covered by seal] which he says you shall have Choyce as you will see [covered by seal] your self he can inform you more fully

I hope to have the Pleashure of your Company Down the River this Spring I will go with you as far Down as you Please, these will be enough to prevent any Endiens doing any^{hurt} to us

Should you com^{com} soon as you can and I will be Ready

I am Sir your most

Hum^l Sarvant

W .. CRAWFORD

FROM WILLIAM BLACK, ESQ.¹

SIR

Being somewhat unwilling to run the Risque of Captain Parker's offer, which perhaps might be the Case, Shoud his Messenger have return'd without a determined Answer, I therefore sent yesterday over to the Boat-Man who had a few Oats to deliver at

¹ Secretary of the commission appointed by Governor Gooch in 1744 that, in union with commissioners from Maryland and Pennsylvania, concluded a treaty with the Six Nations of Indians, whereby, in consideration of £400, all the land westward of Virginia to the Ohio River was relinquished to the English. Black's journal of the mission, with notes by R. A. Brock, is published in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, vols. i. and ii. William Black married Miss Dent, of Maryland, and left many descendants.

Urbanna, That if he woud wait till wednesday morning, I woud pay him 20/.. which he having Consented to, I have now sent my Son over with this other proposal viz. Six Thousand Pounds for both places, this and Woromonkoke to be paid in 12 Months and 5 P: Cent discount for whatever I might want within that time, which woud be 300£ shou'd I want the whole; I will put Doors to all the Out Houses and repaire the Weather boarding; I now can have Considerably more on giving time but that interferes with and wou'd postpone my Scheme of going Home longer than I wou'd willingly wish —

With Submission to whatever may be the Opinion of others, I humbly Conceive, That the same Money coud not be laid out to better, or indeed so good Advantage for the Benefit of the Young Gentlemans Estate than this Purchase; I believe it has been Experimentily found by many Gentlemen in the Country, That midling Land lying Contiguous to the bulk of their Estates, are by much more profitable than the very best lying at any Considerable distance. This Purchase wou'd give your Ward a very Valuable Estate in King William and a Genteel and Ellegant Seat in K: & Queen all Conveniencys, and Ready to Receive his Furniture, So Situate, that any day he may take a ride and View his whole Estate on both sides of Pomunky and Return before night, with this very great Advantage, that by means of the two Mills, All the Corn made in King William & here, woud be for Markett; There are Several Considerable Fixtures which wou'd go with the House and a very small Expence wou'd give this place a

very different Appearance to the Rude State it now ~~appears~~ Shews and make it be thought worth double what it is now offered at. The offers I have [had] made me is 660£ more than mine to you, and if the discount mentioned were to take place it would be near a Thousand Your Answer Signify'd by this Opportunity will Determine

Sir

Your very humble Servant

WILLIAM BLACK

November 16th 1773
BLACKS GROVE

FROM CAPTAIN PETER HOG.

WINCHESTER 11th Decem^r 1773

SIR /

About 8 Days agoe I got to this Town on my return from the great Kanhawa after a Division of our large Survey made with more Equality & Satisfaction to the several patentees than could have been reasonably expected in such a large & consequently unequal Tract as to Quality Situation &c, Tho Coll^o Stephens & myself have got little better than 8,000 Acres in full of our Claim of 9,000, Time will not permit me to descend to the particulars of the partition, tho this much I may add that the Interest of the absent was peculiarly regarded, & strict Justice, or rather a Degree of Generosity was extended to them, I have also to observe to you that by our resolves on the Division, the Deficiency of 199 Acres in the Survey to the Amount of our united Claims

were allotted to me this I expect will be allowed me in the last Surveys returned together with 400 Acres for Duncan Ferguson a Drummer in my Company at the Battle of the Meadows & my Servant as I purchased his Time on our March somewhere about the little Meadows of his Master, from whom he had run away. I have further to inform you that M^r Thruston purchased Coll^o Muse's Share in the large Survey for £900 & consequently is the largest proprietor in our Tract.

Since my return to this Side of the Mountain I have seen M^r Wormley who informs me that the Governor has had Letters from Administration acquainting him that the proprietary Government on the Ohio is not to take place, but whether their Grant of the Soil still subsists or not, he could not inform And as your Bro^r M^r Cha^s Washington (whom I had the pleasure of seeing at the same Time) informed me you were at Wmsburg & had not returned when he left Frdsb^s I expect you will be able to advise me as to the Changes that have taken place in the long expected System of the Seventy two petitioners & whether we are to consider our Ohio Lands as Still within the Colony of Virg^a how far our Governor is at Liberty to grant our Claim under the royal proclamation, or if his Instructions like the Gov^r of West Florida are solely restricted to the Officers on the british Establishment,¹ pray write me fully as to the particulars of what I have only here hinted at, also

¹ "The Military Company of Adventurers," an association composed of many provincial soldiers of the French war, sent representatives to West Florida in January, 1773, expecting to receive from the Governor large grants of land there. Charles

the Mode of Application you judge the most likely to succeed, or what you intend to adopt, the Fate of Bullet, & what Method you ~~would~~ think the most eligible to explore, locate & survey our Claims under the Kings proclamation & also what you have done, or rather what the Gov^r Council have resolved on, relative to the last Surveys returned to compleat the 200,000 Acres: and if you could oblige me so far as to get my Claim to the Deficiency of 199 Acres & Duncan Fergusons Quota of 400 Acres, laid for me in the pokestilcoe Survey; as it would be just on my road down the great Kanhawa which is the route that I shall hereafter take to my Lands in the large Tract, if so I shall be ready to pay my proportion of the Charges I shall esteem it as a signal Instance of your Friendship if you will give me a satisfactory Answer to the undigested Hints here thrown out which the Hurry of seeing my Family (after an Absence of 11 Weeks) will I hope sufficiently excuse, & shall further assure you that none of the patentees who were on the Spott seem the least inclined to part with their Lands, if they can follow any Method to secure them by Cultivation, ~~of~~ which they are well resolved to attempt by sending out hands next Spring, pray give me your Sentiments on this Head also & believe me with great Esteem

Sir/

your very hum^l. Serv^t

PET^r: HOG

M. Walker (*History of Athens County, Ohio*) describes their reception: "After a long voyage they arrived at Pensacola, and there, to their great disappointment and chagrin, found that the Governor had no authority to grant them lands as had been represented."

FROM GEORGE WYTHER, ESQ.¹

Col. Washington seemed to be satisfied as to the King & Queen lands, which belonged to M^r Story, without inquiring into the title before the date of his Will in 1717, if the title be regularly deduced from him.

I think by the Will the estate devised to the daughter was a contingent fee, determinable by her death, without leaving issue or without having alienated, so that the estate in fee, limited upon that event by executory devise, as she survived her child, and had made no alienation, took effect, and was well conveyed by the deed of the 12th of April, 1750, from Charles Story to John Robinson esq^r supposing the recitals and suggestions in the deed to be true. If my opinion be wrong, and the daughter took either a pure fee simple, or a qualified fee, determinable, not upon her death without leaving, but upon her death without ever having had, issue, in that case M^r Robinson had a good title by that conveyance, if Charles Story was the daughter's heir at Law, otherwise not.

M^r Robinson, by a deed to him from Thomas Hickman and Barbara his Wife, 14th Jan^y 1734 purchased 600 Acres of Land adjoining Wyatts, sold to Story; Whether this be part of the Land agreed to be sold by M^r Black to Col. Washington I know not, neither have I seen any other paper concerning it.

¹ Born in Elizabeth City County, Virginia, in 1726; died in Richmond, June 8, 1806.

the deed from Hickman, if he had a title, I think a good conveyance —

By act of general Assembly, 10 Geo. the 3'd, some land in King and Queen County, purchased of Richard Johnson by M^r. Robinson, who with others claiming under him were in possession, was vested in William Lyne and some other Gentlemen, in trust, to convey to such persons as claimed under M^r. Robinson, with a saving of the Titles of all persons other than those claiming under the will of a Testator who had devised to Richard Johnson the seller: whether the part reserved by M^r. Robinson be included in the Land agreed to be sold by M^r. Black; Whether the testator had a good title; or whether the Trustees have conveyed to M^r. Robinsons admors the part so reserved, which I think they the Admo^rs were intitled to as a resulting trust, I can give no opinion, having seen no papers relating to these Matters.

If Romonkocke be part of the 1683 acres purchased by col: Bernard Moore from M^r. William Claiborne, & from M^r. Robinson, who it seems derived his title from the Claibornes, as I suppose it is; and if Claibornes title be good, which I understand Col. Washington was satisfied with, and be properly deduced to Col. Moore, as, from what M^r. Dandridge says of the Wills of N Claiborne the Father and Son, and from his abstracts of the conveyances from the heir and Executors of the Claibornes, to Robinson, and from Robinson to Moore, I am persuaded it is; yet I am apprehensive there is still a chasm, having in vain searched in the Secretary's office for a Conveyance from M^r. Robinsons administrators, who had

B. Moore's title, to M^r Black: but this unquestionably may be supplied. I have the conveyance from Carter Braxton, T. Walker, T. Jefferson and Power to W. Black which is recorded in the Secretary's Office, but, without conveyances leading to it, is insignificant.

I find no deed from Col. Thomas Moore to Bernard Moore to convey, nor any writ, in the nature of an *ad quod damnum*, to dock the intail of any land of the former; but I found the certificate of a survey, with a plot, of 89 acres of land belonging to Thomas Moore, said to have been made 2^d of August 1765 by virtue of a writ of *ad quod damnum*, the writ is mislaid (for it appears one did issue) and perhaps the deed, because the fees were not paid, without which it seems such papers are never Recorded. a copy of the certificate is inclosed with this. perhaps these 89 acres are those intended to be sold with the Mill, and supposed to be an hundred; if so a description of the land may be inserted in the blank left in the conveyance, and proper steps be now taken to secure the title.

The deed from Thomas Moore and his trustees, to William Seton, conveys, not an hundred acres, but one acre only with the Mill. Col. Moore's title I know nothing of — I find no material fault in the conveyance.

Col. B. Moore's title being allowed, M^r Blacks title to the 550 acres called Gooch's seems unexceptionable.

GEO. WYTHE.

15th of Dec: 1773—

FROM BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE, ESQ.

The conveyance from Bernard Moore to his Trustees is now found & in M^r Wythes possession. & M^r Lyons has promised on behalf of Col. Pendleton & himself to make any conveyance in their power to confirm Col. Washingtons Title under M^r Black. This is all that M^r Wythe appears to want with respect to Romoncocke

No conveyance has been made by Col. T. Moore to W^m Seton of the 100 Acres of Land adjoining the Mill, but M^r Lyons, & M^r Power as Attorneys of Seton promise to get one of Moore & join him in it to Col. Washington, & to convey the Mill & one acre.

Bern^d Moore agreed to exchange 100 Acres part of Romoncocke for 89 Acres of his Brother T. Moore adjoining, and supposing the 89 Acres to be intailed the writ of ad quod damnum issued as mentioned by M^r Wythe, but no conveyance was made in consequence of the exchange, so that the legal title to the 100 Acres remained in Col. B. Moore & will be in Col. Washington who will also have a right to compel a performance of the Agreement on the exchange which suits all parties, I find too upon inquiry, Col. B. Moore had a legal title to the 89 Acres of land supposed to be intailed, & his Brother only an equitable title —

B DANDRIDGE

FROM GEORGE MASON, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,

GUNSTON HALL Decem^r 21st 1773. —

The embarrass'd Situation of my Friend M^r Ja^{me} Mercer's Affairs gives ^{Me} much more Concern than Surprise. I always feared that his Aversion to selling the Lands & Slaves, in Expectation of paying the Debts with the Crops & Profits of the Estate, whilst a heavy Interest was still accumulating, wou'd be attended with bad Consequences, independant of his Brother's Difficulties in England; having never, in a single Instance, seen these sort of Delays answer the Hopes of the Debtor. When Col^o Mercer was first married, & thought in affluent circumstances by his Friends here, considerable purchases of Slaves were made for Him, at high prices (& I believe mostly upon Credit) which must now be sold at much less than they cost: He was originally burthened wth a proportionable part of his Fathers Debts; most of which, as well as the old Gentleman's other Debts, are not only still unpaid, but must be greatly increased by Interest; so that even if Col^o Mercer had not incurr'd a large Debt in England, He wou'd have found his Affairs here in a disagreeable Situation. I have by Me M^r Mercer's Title-Papers for his Lands on Pohick Run & on Four-mile Run, in this County; which ~~I have~~ I have hitherto endeavour'd to sell for Him in Vain; for as He left the Price entirely to Me, I cou'd not take less for them than if they had been my own; this Difficulty will not be lessened, but the Contrary, by your becoming the Purchaser. Had I sold them to an indifferent Purchaser, I shou'd,

in the common way of Business, have stretch'd my Demand as far as it wou'd bear, but between You & M^r Mercer I wou'd fain consider myself as a mutual Friend & Arbiter; & from my Connections with Him, I know He wou'd wish Me to Act in that Manner; which renders it an Affair of some Delicacy, & takes it out of the common Mode of Business — I have some applications from Maryland, to only one of which I paid much Regard; this was from a Gentleman whose Circumstances I was well acquainted with & knew ^{his payments} He_Λ cou'd be relyed on; I expected, in Answer to what I said to Him, that He wou'd have appointed a Day to meet Me on the Lands & examine them; but have heard nothing from Him lately; which I ascribe merely to an Indolence of Temper, for which He is pretty remarkable. — The tract upon four-mile Run is contained in two Patents, one granted to Stephen Grey for 378 Acres, the other to Gabriel Adams for 790 Acres, they appear by the platt to overmeasure considerably, & contain, clear of Strutfield's elder Patent, (with which they interfere) 1225 Acres. I have formerly been upon this Land; but its so many years ago, that I now know very little of it, from my own Knowledge, but from the best Information I have had, that part of it upon Four-Mile Run (in Stephen Grey's Patent) is tollerable good, & the other ~~was~~ mean; but from its vicinity to Alexandria; which now bids fair to be a very a considerable Town, I think it must be worth £1000 — Curr? — Col^o Carlyle (whose Lands adjoin) told M^r Mercer that_Λ ^{it} was worth 20/ an Acre, & that if He had the

Money, He wou'd give that Price for it; perhaps this might be only one of the Colonel's —; yet it has raised M^r Mercer's Expectations. Upon the Whole, Sir, if You will appoint any Day after Christmas, I will wait [covered by seal] You, & ^{w^e} will ride over the Land together; when we shall both be better able to judge of its Value. There was some little Difficulty in the Title from Stephen Grey; which M^r Mercer has been very Candid in laying open to Me, & which M^r Pendleton (whose Opinion I have) has I think clear'd up in a very satisfactory Manner. —

I am much obliged to You for y^r Information concerning the Lands upon the Western Waters. I long to have a little Chat with You upon the Subject; & if Doct^r Connolly, who has promised to spend a Day or two with Me as He returns from W^msburg, is as good as his word, I will do myself the Pleasure of taking a Ride with Him to Mount Vernon.

I heartily wish M^r Washington & You a Merry Christmas, & many, very many, happy New-Years and am, very sincerely,

D^r Sir Y^r affect^s & obed^t Serv^t

G. MASON

P. S. M^r Lun^d Washington was so kind to promise my Son, He wou'd have some Corn I bought of y^r overseer Cleveland, waggoned to my Quarter on little Hunting-Creek; I beg the Favour of You to remind Him of it.

FROM DOCTOR JOHN CONNOLLY.

FREDRICKSBURG Decemb^r: 23^d 1773

DEAR SIR.

I am extremely sorry that I am forced to debar myself the pleasure of waiting ^{upon you} agreeable to my proposal & wish; but when you consider the Season of the year & the distance I have before me, I hope I shall stand exculpated in your opinion. — I have very luckily succeeded as far as I could well have expected, so that I have the satisfaction to find my Fatigue & trouble, hath not been for nothing. — His Lordship thinks with you, that there is a necessity for the Pennsylvanians closing their Western Bounds; & I should conceive no means so effectual to that purpose could be devised, as the striking off a new County including Pittsburgh, & and at least two miles to the East, & up the Monongahela to the entrance of Buffaloe Creek. perhaps Grave Creek, below Wheaton, might be a good west Boundary for y^e County. this scheme will include at least two thousand Subjects, who will by an Act of Assembly, be wrested from the oppressive Tyranny which is now exercised over them. —

If the Proprietaries conceive themselves really agrieved by these means, they will then close their Lines, & you will find no other Step will answer. His Excellency hath made some Civil Appointments at Fort Pitt, as in the County of Augusta, but they can have no good effect untill a County Town can be conveniently fixed, to which the Subject may be amenable to his advantage. Excuse haste & ^{any} incor-

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rectness you may herein perceive & believe me to be
with all Regard

D^r Sir

your Fr^d & Serv^t

JOHN CONNOLLY

FROM COLONEL JOHN ARMSTRONG.

CARLISLE 24th Decemb^r 1773

DEAR SIR

Your favour of the 28th Sep^r from Annapolis, and that of the 10th Octob^r from your Own House, I now most gratefully acknowledge, and shou'd have done it Sooner, had any promising conveyance occur'd. I have communicated your Sentiments and representation of the matter in question to sundry Gentlemen in Pennsylvania belonging to our reduc'd Tribe,¹ who are all thankfully Sensible of that obvious Candour with which you have wrote. Doctor Mercer who has also been kind enuff to write me at some length differs nothing from yours, only that in the important point of his Lordships inclinations *or rather power* to grant the Patents in that part of the World, the D^r has not been so explicit, but his Silence on that point is fully suppl'd by y^r letters, and particularly from the paragraph you have quoted from the Governors letter to y^r self — from which Paragraph, and particularly from the sundry phrases you have mark'd, some expectations may naturally be infer'd.

A report has lately prevail'd here, that by means of General Gage, the New Governm^t (to be call'd

¹ Provincial officers of the French war.

Barrataria) is laid aside — The Suffering Traders to get the Soil, and the Country or Settlement at least for the present, to be thrown under the jurisdiction of the Govern^t of Virginia — Shou'd this prove true, I shou'd think it much in our favour, as it wou'd extend the Powers of Lord Dunmore to the Western waters. I have also Seen a letter contradicting the above report, alledging that D^r Franklin had been able to Obviate the arguments advanc'd by General Gage again[s]t Erecting the New Government — but however that matter may be, Our Pretensions being replete with equity And, also^{so} fairly comprehended in the natural construction of the Proclamation itself, that the best judges of law in Maryland & Our Province have declar'd in favour of Provincials, nor shou'd we by any means give it up. Some its' true have thought we were not Originally in the contemplation of his Majesty's Ministers — Suppose that to have been the Case, yet for the reasons but now hinted, we shou'd make our just claim, and the Proclamation itself being the only true Standard or Test, whereby that fact can be determin'd, most certainly from the face of the Procⁿ tis more apparent that we were, than that we were not within the designs of his Majesty's Ministers. And unless there is an Express prohibition to the Kings Governors respecting the Troops of the different Colonys (which can hardly be Suppos'd) there is not the least doubt, but sooner or later the Lands may safely be granted, and the Surveys now or hereafter made on the footing of that Proclamation of 63, the Claim being kept up, will in my humble Opinion eventually succeed. The

Officers of this Governm^t have already been considerably Out of Pocket in paying for the Surveys and attending expences, and Captⁿ Thompson is soon to proceed to Williamsburgh, in Order to Solicit a Deputation for the Surveys of the Pennsylvania Officers only, and State to Lord Dunmore & the Gentⁿ of Your College¹ what he has done, with the reasons of it &c. He is determin'd to Call on you, on his way out, and I make no doubt of your cordial advice & influence in what your better acquaintance there may dictate to you as most expedient — A Survey of about 1200 A^c has been made for a certain D^r Connelly and One Campbell of Fort Pitt since Lord Dunmore left that Place, somewhere about the great Falls, This Survey is very publickly said to be made in consequence of Some grant or promise of his Lordship when there to these Men together with the nomination or preference of the Spot, but of the express quantity I cannot be certain — and Connelly its said is now at Williamsbgh Expecting a Confirmation of the Survey. I think this matter, which in substance I believe to be fact, also argues in favour.

If weather & the River Potomack admit, I hope my Son, now returning from a Visit here, to his present Station near the Rappahanock will have the pleasure of delivering you this Scrawl at Mountver-

¹ The office of surveyor-general was conferred on the Faculty of the College [of William and Mary] by the sixteenth section of the charter, which enjoins that the professors "shall nominate and substitute such and so many particular surveyors for the particular counties of our Colony of Virginia as our governor in chief, and the council of our said Colony, shall think fit and necessary;" for which service they were to receive "the profits and appurtenances of the office," which were already established by law. — HUGH BLAIR GRIGSBY. As surveyors-general the officers of the College appointed all surveyors in Virginia. — TYLER.

non. He has some thoughts of moving from that Place, and Some intimations of another vacancy perhaps more agreeable at a place of which I imagin you have some acquaintance — but this intention to remove for prudential reasons he does not chuse to be known where he now lives, until he can be better determin'd, and on this point I know I need not ask you to render him any assistance you may think of Service to him. As to his Character, altho' I believe you wou'd forgive me, I rather leave that to other people, and so far as it may be necessary foundation of your letter or advice, I beg leave to refer you to Doctor Mercer or Some of the Gentlemen where he lives, One of whom being a Member of y^r General Assembly for the County of Lancaster you undoubtedly know,¹ but as I expect he will either see you, or write you soon, I shall not farther trespass, — But that I am

Dear Col! with great truth & Esteem

Your Most Obed^t humble Serv^t

JOHN ARMSTRONG

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

SPRING GARDIN Decemb^r 29th 1773

SIR

Som People about 10 or 12 in number has gon on your Chart[i]er Land within this few days and there is no geting them of without by Force of Arms

¹ Richard Mitchell and Charles Carter represented Lancaster County in the Virginia Assembly in 1773.

They are inCouraged by Maj^r ward Brother to Col^o Croghan ho Claims the Land and says he has grant a grant from Crown for that Land and he will indem- nifie them if they will set in any house where no Per- son is Living and also offers the Land for Sail war- ranting the Purcher a Lawfull title, he farther ads that Col^o Croghan says you and my self has used his brother Col^o Croghan very ill in pretending to buy his Land and did not, but went and took the best of it, and would not agree to pay^{him} and that was the Reason offerd for Seling the Land to any Person who Should Chuse to by

I think Such Proceeding as those if not stop^d will soon set the Hole County in ruin those men have not bought of him, but took^{your Land} and say the will Keep it, I cold Drive them away but they will com back Emedetly as soon as my back is turn^d, They man I put on the Land they have drove away and Built a house so Colse to his dore he cannot get into the house at the dore

Inclosed you have a faint Draft maid by Gess of the Way his Land has bin Claim^d and run and the way his Deed from the Endien Given to him is, one in the Fork of the two Rivers one at the Mouth of Sewegely¹ on Youchagany. and the Grant he dose make so much noyse about is they Grant on the Ohio and Rockoon² first Run by Cap^t William Thompson is the Limits of his grant as I have found sence by a Coppy of the hole 3 grants from Phile- delphia. The Line Run by M^r Campbell to the

¹ Sewickley Creek.

² Raccoon Creek.

Mouth of Petters Creek is over and above his grant Much More the Line Run by M^r Hooper to the Little Readstone which is nearly four times as much as his Endien Deed Calls for What Protention he can have for the other Land I am at a Looss to now.

Your Land is 2 Miles and better from the utmost Limits of his Land as you will see by how it is Laid Down on the Run call^d Millers Run

When Thompson run the Land and maid out the Draft and Deliverd it to him Col^o Croghan said it was not Run right, Then he imploy M^r Campbell and told him that the River Must be Travist¹ up to the Mouth of Peters Creek as that was they bounds of his Land, and when M^r Campbell and had run the Line as Mark^d and Deliverd to him Colo^o Croghan said we had not run the Land right we should have allow^d him 10 Degrees for veration of the Compass and then he got M^r Hooper and Run this Last Line as you See Marked Then he imployd M^r Pentecost for to Run 30 thousand Acres on the head of Shirtees Creek and Cross Creek this still Left you out, but sence M^j^r Ward taks you and My Self and Lun Washington in and says Col^o Croghan has a grant from the Crown for the Land and has given him that part as Low as the mouth of Wheeling and has had a Survayor Laying of Tracts of Land till they have bin stoped by the People how they will Proceed farther I now not I can Recover the Land by Law of this Province or at least Great part as the Land is well improved as any in the Country where no person Lives but this will be Costly and Troublesom I

¹ traversed.

shall wait your answer before I proceed as probable you may fall on some other way as some late accounts from Philadelphia say the new Proprietary government has fallen through and that the Government is to remain in the hands of Lord Dunmore which I hope will put us in a better footing than we are likely to [be] under the present State of Matters if it should be true

when Lord Dumore was at my house he gave me the promise he would intercede for a District of Surveying on the Ohio for me and now he will have it in his power if he pleases to give me one and I have wrote to him on that head I should be glad if you would help me in that as it is or will be in your Power to help me should matter fall in that Channel should I get any thing of the sort I should be glad to have one joining me as it would be near me and suite me much the best, under the present Circumstances what Lays between me and the Surveys I have made will not be much all the Land worth anything is already surveyed. but if you can do any pray do as [it] will then be in my Power to be of Service to you and my self two and our friends

You probably may get your Land on Chart[i]ers Creek patented that would put an end to farther Trouble but this I will leave to your own Judgment

I am your very Hum^{ble} Servant

W CRAWFORD

FROM BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR/

I now am to give you an Account of my Proceedings with M^r Black which I am afraid will not prove so satisfactory as I could wish.

After going to the Office in King William & getting what Papers I could find I went to M^r Black's for further information, but could not see him, I then left a Letter informing him that I should wait on him from King William Court with M^r Wythe's Opinion and, in case he was satisfied with the title, with a Deed from him to you, and desired he might then be at home to execute it, In the mean time I sent the Papers to M^r Wythe who sent the writings (of which the inclosed is a copy) & a Deed, and as I knew you thought the bargain an advantageous one for M^r Custis, I thought I might venture to confirm it and for that purpose would have gone to M^r Black's at the time appointed, but I heard at Court that instead of staying to meet me, he went to James River as soon as he heard I had been there, and I was again disappointed tho' I waited several days in King William for his return. I then thought it best to leave a Letter at Col. Moore's, with yours inclosed, to be delivered to Black as soon as he came home, & if he did not come before the 25th to be delivered to M^r Black, in this I informed him of the defects in his Title, but undertook to confirm the bargain on his & M^r Black's executing the Deed & his undertaking that all defects should be supplied, & desired

he would appoint a day when he would be at home ready to execute the Deed & I would attend him with it, of which the Bearer was to give me notice, this Letter was delivered to him by M^r Davenport before the 25th of the month, but I did not receive his Answer time enough to go over again before Christmas, he could not be prevailed on to write and his verbal Answer was, that he should be at home for a Week and was ready to execute the Deed at any time, but M^{rs} Black declared she would not relinquish her Dower, in consequence of this I went over on Munday last, and found Black at home, he at first refused to sign the Deed saying that as there was disputes about his Title and M^{rs} Black was unwilling to acknowledge her right, the bargain might as well drop, which could do M^r Custis no injury, with other excuses: but at length he consented & signed the Deed which he said M^{rs} Black would do (tho she refused from the begining) and after I had waited all Day at Black's request persisted in her refusal, he then desired me to leave the Deed with M^r Bernard Moore jun^r and, when M^{rs} Black was willing to relinquish which he expected would shortly be the case, he would give M^r Moore notice of it, & M^r Moore promised to have her acknowledgment properly taken. I know nothing of the motives for Black's conduct and am altogether at a loss to guess what they can be, as he really is the most unaccountable mortal I ever met with, I am satisfied M^{rs} Black acts by his direction, sometimes he said M^{rs} Black wanted some Negroes made over to her child, & at other times that she expected you would make her a

present of a suit of Cloths which she had been informed was customary on such occasions, M^r. Black said you could not blame her, as she never promised to relinquish her right or was asked to do it by you, but if she had promised she would have complied, neither persuasions nor threats seem to affect them in the least, but in the most serious conversation I would draw them into on this momentous Subject M^r. Black's ride in the Chariott with you, was frequently introduced with other trifling matters —

I saw M^r. Hill soon after you went up & he asked my Opinion as to his renting the place to Black, which I advised him against, & that is his resolution, Black now says he has a right to stay in the House 'til his other place is prepared for his reception and the weather is better, & that he must finish his Crop & keep his Stock on the Land until they eat the Fodder, but he says your Overseer & Negroes are welcome to be there also. I have wrote to M^r. Hill advising him not to consent to let Black stay a day, but if he will stay to take such possession as he is willing to give 'til he has further directions from you —

I hope I have now given you all the necessary information in my power about this Affair, and thought at such a distance it was best to be particular, tho a little tiresome, If I can be of service in any thing further I hope you will freely command me, I have wrote to M^r. Wythe on this Subject & shall do any thing he thinks necessary 'til I hear from you. I had almost forgot to mention that Black required his Bond for making you a title to be delivered up

when M^r Black executed the Deed, this I have not got —

It may not be amiss to let you know that all the Land from Ruffin's to yours must shortly be sold, and it's likely under it's value, M^r Ruffin bought Sweethall for half what it must be really worth —

I will now trouble you no further than to desire you will let my Sister know that our Family are well, and that my Mother & Sister Bassett with the Family were well lately when I heard from them, my Sister Aylett is in King W^m on her way up the Country, Be pleased to give my Love to my Sister & Nephew in which Molly and the Children join me, and the whole Family join me in wishing you all health & happiness & the Complim^{ts} of the Season, I am

Dear Sir

Your very affect. ~~hble~~ Serv^t

B DANDRIDGE

NEW KENT
Dec^r 30, 1773.

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.¹

SIR

I should be Glad to know Maters was Setled at Fredricksburgh at the Last Meeting of the Officers in regard to our Lands under his Majesties Proclamation.

You may Depend on my taking Every Step in my Power to finish the Soldiers Land this fall and win-

¹ This letter without date was probably written in 1772 or 1773.

ter and as soon as any can be don it shall be sent to you by the hand of som person ho shall bring it to you Emedetly

I waited on Col^o Mason on my Return hom and have agreed with him to Survey the Ohio Land as soon as the Land for the Solders is done

I am indepted to M^r Hite for som goods had Last Spring of him before I went down the River and I am obliged to give him an order on you for som mony which I hop youl pay as soon as you get it in your hands, Any news you may have toward the new Goverment that may concern me I should be glad to hear as soon as Covenant Your Land on Char-t[i]ers is Safe yeat but how Long they may Continue so I dont now as the People at that time going to Setle on them that we come down was Drogen of and attempt to Return in the Spring, I shall Setle som man on them if Posable and hop by that means to Secure them Every thing in my Power shall be don and they must be Stronger then me and my Party if the take them I have Agreed to pay twenty pounds for M^r Stephenson^s Estate to you Which I should be Oblige^d to you for and I am With due Regard your very

Hum^s Sarvant

W .. CRAWFORD

FROM JOHN AYLETT, ESQ.¹

DEAR SIR.

There is a deed of gift from your Lady, for several Slaves, to her Brother Bartholomew Dandridge, in Trust, for the Joint use of her dec^d Sister and her Sister Aylett, recorded in new Kent county court. The deed expresses the Slaves were allotted to her, by her Brother W Dandridge, as, and for a proportionable, or Childs part, of the value of the Slaves, of Col^o Dandridges estate.

I shall be very much obliged to you, to inform me, whether the Slaves, said to be allotted, were ever delivered, to M^r Washington: by whom the allotment was made, and whether, if it was not made by her Bro^r William, he ever assented to it. —

Betsy Joins me in Love to your Lady Self & M^r Custis — — and am D^r Sir. —

Your most obed^t Serv^t —

JOHN AYLETT

1774 January - 1. —

PS —

direct to me, at Col^o Bassetts ---JA. — ²

¹ Born in 1748; died February 7, 1776. Married Elizabeth Dandridge, sister of Martha Washington, April 10, 1773.

² MOUNT VERNON Jan: 8th 1774

D^B SIR

In answer to your enquiries of the 1st Ins^t, I have to profess an entire ignorance of every matter, & thing respecting the Deed of Trust mentioned in your Letter, so far as relates to any personal knowledge; upon discoursing ^{however} with M^r Washington on this Subject, I learn, that the Negro's were never delivered to her, that she desired M^r. Barth^o or her Mother (she does not recollect which) to have the matter transacted between herself & Sisters; but whether M^r. Will^m Dandridge was in the Country, con-

FROM ROBERT ADAM, ESQ.¹

DEAR SIR

I am favoured with yours, as Also for M^r Young which I have delivered him; he seems Satisfyed with your proposal and senceable that he will save more than he Could in Such a place as Bladensburgh from the Wages he had there, And now waits upon you himself — I have Dropt two lines to the Doct^r desiring to let me know if there was any particular reason for his leaveing his Employ when I receive an Answer I shall Communicate it to you —

In regard to the duty if it was petitioned for to be Local Im doubtfull some difficulty would Arise in transporting Rum from on[e] district to another by which it might Injure the trade of the Other Rivers in the Same way we are Situated with Maryland it is Customary to transport Rum from One District to Another with a Permitte, that, it has been Legally entered & paid the duty Suppose this District was exempted from duty & that sum made good in the manner proposed, Any Rum transported from this River to any other the permitte could Only express that it had been entered but no duty paid, it must therefor be Subject to the duty if carried to any other district, or be Runn in to these Rivers in the

sending thereto, or not, she does not recollect. — — This Sir is all the information I have it in my power to give you — M^r. Washington joins me in love to M^{rs} Aylett & yourself and I am D^r Sir

Y^r. Most Obed^t
G W——N

(Washington's reply.)

¹ Indorsed "January 7. 1774."

same manner it is from Maryland here, And this I'm Affraid would be too much the Case, but ^{were} there no inconveniences of this kind I'm Certain the Mode proposed would Raise a larger Sum than is at present Colected at the Office, and was it possible to have the Law made Generall I'm Confident it would Raise more than is at present Colected from all the Offices but this might be better Acertained upon a further enquiry Should the Plan proposed not take it might be the means of introducing some other w^c might answer the same purpose I wish some ^{thing} Effectual could be done, its both a pity & a Shame that this River & Country Around Should be so Effectually debared from Carrying on A Trade that ~~in~~ must benefit allmost every Individual and ~~whose~~ ^{its} Natural Channel should be from the West Indies here, and not the Round about way from Philadelphia here at Second hand, I am in hopes some plan may be fallen on for our Relief And I hope you will Interest your self in our behalf till we may by perseverance perhaps gain some Relief

I am Sir

Your Most Humb: Servant

ROBERT ADAM

FROM MAJOR ANGUS McDONALD.¹

SIR/

you nave aplantation on powtomack about 12 miles above the warm spring and near my aplantation, there is on[e] worthington Lives on your Land that dos you no good. if you will Send me directions I will Put some body on it that will Either pay rent or make some Improvement I am Sir with Esteem your obedient

Servant

ANGUS M^cDONALD ²

FREDERICK COUNTY

8th Jan^r 1774

FROM ROBERT ADAM, ESQ.

SIR

I am favoured with yours and have given particular Attention to the Contents, it gives me some relief, when you say you are not, nor has been prejudiced with me, Concious I am, that to my knowledge I never did any thing to merit it, If I have not been so fortunate for some time past as I had a rea-

¹ Angus McDonald was of Scotch descent. He was in active service throughout Dunmore's war, but was arrested as a dangerous loyalist at the outbreak of the Revolution, for attempting, with Alexander McDonald, to raise a regiment "against the liberties of America." The home of the McDonalds, "Glengary," was near Winchester, Va. It was named after the Highland clan to which the family had belonged in Scotland.

² On the 28th of this Inst^l Jan^r I gave the within Maj^r M^cDonald a power to Rent the Land there mentiond from year to year or for a term of years not exceeding five to the best advantage he could and to receive the Rents for my use. — —

G WASHINGTON

1774

(Note on the back of manuscript.)

sonable prosspect of, my endeavours has in no respect been the Less I am Subjected to good & bad luck, like the rest of mankind but think I have bore a greater Share of the latter for these three years past than my general Application to Business has deserved nor have I my Self to accuse for makeing a bad use of any thing and may truely say that I barely enjoy the necessarys of life and allmost a Stranger to the Innocent Amusements of it, — It was far from me to think there was any thing harsh or unreasonable in your haveing the Mortgage Executed. I frequently thought of mentioning it to you my self to have it done, when M^r Harrison first produced it to me, he desired me read it over, I took notice of Something in the Concluseion that I thought uncommon, and mentioned^{it} to him, at the same time told him if it was your desire that I was satisfied and would Execute it immediately this was in my Counting Room and at that time^{there was} no person to Witness it that we knew would Attend that Court, I told him that M^r Campbell would be at home in a day or two if he would^{be} so kind as Call, he, himself & some other^{person} would be at Court, which he promised me he would do I never heard any more of[^] till I received a very Short message from you to come that moment to M^r Hawkins and Execute the Mortgage I must Confess it Struck me with a little Surprise, as there was Several Gent^{le} at that Instant with me, And soon as I could gett Clear of them I came down, The Ball^e which will be due from this

last years dealing I fully Intended should be paid within or nigh the time mentioned I am not certain as to the exact time I had the first of your Course Flower I think it was in ~~February~~ or March, and was to pay for it within the 12 M^o. At the time I made that engagement I did not depend on making the payment out of the Commodity itself but had several other very reasonable prosspects to have received that sum from but to my no small mortification have failed in them all and particularly in that of M^r. Amblers where I thought I had an Intire dependence, he not only disapointed me, but Insults me for telling him my necessity and the particular engagem^t. I was under to pay certain Sums, you was present When Smith Ashured the payment to me Nov^r. 12 M^o. he then putt me off till April. & told me he had sold Ambler the Land on purpose to raise money to discharge my debt refered me to him & give me a letter for paym^t. M^r. Campbell went down on purpose to receive the money, & gott him to Ashume [assume?] & pay to Amount of £300 the whole Amounting to £900 & odd in Nov^r. last waited on him again when I received the Inclosed letter from him, I dont offer these things as any excuses Only to Mitigate in some small Degree my disapointing you Add to this the Advantages which many taks of the present times and will not make us any payments, Out of my whole Fishing last year I have received 15 punceons of Jamaica Rum & three Hh^d.
Sugar this is my whole Amount^{received} for 1000 Barrels herrings all the Rum Excepting 2 hh^d remains on hand — You say I bought your Coarse Flower very

reasonable I must beg leave to State this matter Fairly to you & In the first place there was a very great Misunderstanding between you & I in our Original Agreeem^t: what I offered you was 10/ for your Middlings & Ship Stuff on an Average but they were to be putt up Seperately, that I might use them as Occation required to the best Advantage, in place of which for the better half of all I had I gott only the Ship Stuff with a very large proportion of shorts that I never Once Dreamt of, and in the Whole delivery I had not one Barrell of Middlings This was so far from being any Bargain on my Side that I do declare to you it was the worst of the kind I ever made. I had every day in my office much better Stuff than the first ^{half} ~~part~~ of yours was for 9/ to pay when and in ^{what} _A Commodity I choice — I acquies in every thing as you represent them and that you ought to be pointedly paid As I understod the matter I was to pay you within or at the expiration of 12 M^o: from the delivery of the ^{first of y^e} _A Flower which I think was in March as no Invoice was sent with it I have not the exact time and by that time if I live I hope to pay you, its not in my power at this time I have no money but as fast as I receive it you shall have it, it would be more pleasing to me to pay before the time than after, I have dealt largely with you when there was not so many purchasers and allways given you good prices and upon the whole have not disappointed you greatly I believe I must now sett my self down Contented and see others trade with more Success the path I made for them As you have fre-

quent Applications made to you ^{for} Fishing Landings and Fish I have in your Fish House above 2000 Bush^a good Salt which as its Stored I think well worth 2/ per Bushel I shall also have from 800 to ^{full Bound} 1000 ^Λ Barrels & there is upwards of 200 hh^d in & about the House all of which I empower you to sell and receive the Amount if any such offer should fall in your way The Barrels Cost me 4/ & the hh^ds 9 should be willing to take the same price for I congratulate you on your Success in Selling your Flower at so good a price I wish if you should be pinched to make up the quantity youd take in 150 or 200 Barrels of mine at 14/ & you may depend it shall not be inferior in quality as its made of the best White Wheat, I am Blamed for raising the price [mutilated] Wheat, When I have not Cash I cannot expect to purchase as they [covered by seal] with Cash in hand if I pay in Commodities I must expect to give a [covered by seal] more & have not exceeded 5/ for the best some for 4/3 4/6 & 4/7 —

May you live long & be happy, and forever be a Stranger to the uneasey ^{ness} ^Λ of Mind that I at present feel, I am with a grateful sense of all your Favours & Indulgences

Your Much Oblidged and Humble

Serv^t

ROBERT ADAM

—————
January 7th 1774

M^r Washington informed me that the Gentleman,

that purchased your Flower wanted 400 Barrels Bread I wish you had thought of Recomending him to me it would have been a great help to me I could have furnished him in a reasonable time with the quantity and such good Bread as he could not have gott on the Continent at the same price (14/ per b!) if its not too late I should be Glad youd yet mention it by letter to him, we cannot turn our Bread into Cash I do not beleve in all your quantity of Stuff & my own which was nearly the same I have ever received £50 — yet its a Branch of Business I'm in some measure Obliged to Carry on but requires a long time to come to any head or as we may say turn in again [mutilated] assisting, in the Course of our Business —

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

D^R SIR

Sence I wrote you Doctor Connolly call^d on me on his way from Williamsburgh and tells me that it is now without Doubt that the new Goverment is fallen through and Lord Dunmore to take Charge of this Quarter what falls out Pensilvania

and he further told me that you had aply^d for my Land as an Officer and Cold not obtain it without a Certificat or my being Present which puts me to a Loss in Som Meashure how to take it aspeatcaly [especially] as you have not wrot me on that head Lord Dunmore promised me most faithfully that when I sent him the Draft of the Land on the Little Kanhaway that he would Patent it for me, and in my

Letter to you I mentioned it to you but have not heard any thing from you Relating to it

I understand by the Doctor that the hole is to be Laid out in Countys if so I hop I may have a Chance for a County^{to Survey}, as Lord Dumore promised me to Serve me that way if it should be in his power Should the Collony of Virg^a take place on the West of Pensilvania. I should think you might get a patent for your Land on Millers Run and that would put an end to any farther Disputs

I should be Glad to hear the opinion of the Governor about Col^o Croghan^a Grant if posable and if he is allow^d the Grant on what footing it will be, Doctor Connolly says that Lord Dumore told him Col^o Croghans Grant was good which is much Disputed hear as there has bin so many attemps made by Col^o Croghan to Deceive the people

I should be very Glad to hear in what Light he stands amongst the Gentlemen of Virginia as to the bounds of his Grant it stands as I have show^d you in my Letter both what he has a Write by his Endien Deed for and what he has taken Over and Above his Deed

Doctor Conoly also informs me that you and Col^o Baset intends up in the Spring very soon in order to proceed Down the River if so Let me now as soon as Covenant and what number of hands you take as I may Provid for you Accordingly If I can make the Canoe without any falt in the Ice I beleve I can mak one that will take you and Col^o Baset and all your Stock of Provisions and you shall have one for your People and there Provisions and then you will

not be incumbred, Your vesel shall be Light and Run well as I have got the best Method of Building them and has Laterly maid som of the best Canoes on the River there is a Large Company Going Down in the Spring

I am Sir your very Hum^b Sarvant

W CRAWFORD

SPRING GARDIN

Janavary 10th 1774

FROM THE REVEREND DOCTOR COOPER.

KINGS COLLEGE, N YORK,

Jan. 10. 1774.

GOOD SIR,

I have received Yours and M^r Custis's Letters of the 15th of December. For the many polite Expressions of Regard, in Both, I beg Leave to return my just Acknowledgements. I hope and earnestly wish, the *young Adventurer* may enjoy every Pleasure, in his new State, which his Imagination hath already formed and from every Account of the young Lady's Disposition and Qualifications, and from my own Knowledge of His, I cannot but think, that they bid very fair for Happiness: I pray Heaven they may obtain it.¹

The Monies You left in my Hands were nearly expended when M^r Custis went to Virginia; what remained not being sufficient to pay the Tutors the Stipulated quarterly Salary. Since the Rec^d of Your's, I have called in all the Bills that I could think of:

¹ John Parke Custis was married to Eleanor Calvert February 3, 1774.

amongst which are *two* of considerable Sums: viz. Rivington's of 19. 2. 3.£ and Graham, a Taylor's, of £58 3. 10½. Besides these, there are several Small ones; of all which, together with an exact Account of my own Payments, You shall receive the Sums, by the next Post, I say the *Sums*, on Account of the *Postage*, the Bills themselves, as well [as] those already paid, with Rec^d to them, as those not yet discharged being equally at your Service, if You think proper to have them.

The Amount, taken collectively, seems large, but you will find, on Consideration, that y^e really Collegiate Expences are no ways high. The Death of Miss Custis brought on a considerable Charge; but then the Articles are in Being. The Chair, The Horse, the Money given to M^r Custis for travelling Expences swell the Bill exceedingly; but then, the two former Articles are nearly worth as much, I presume, at this Time, as they were then. The Money laid out in papering the Room &c must be sunk of course: the furniture has been sold at Auction under the Care of M^r Harper, into whose Hands M^r Vardill committed the Business, upon his sailing for England. The same person has pack'd up M^r C's Clothes &c, & sent them as directed. You will find that y^e Professors have just been paid their constant Wages; with which they have no Reason to be dissatisfied; tho they much lament M^r Custis's unexpected Departure. For my own Part, it is impossible to make any Charge at all: I have no Idea of it.¹

¹ "You will now receive a Draft on Messrs. Osgood, Hanbury & Co, — for £65, Sterling, — which please to dispose of, & with the money arising, discharge the sev-

I should have been happy in waiting upon You at Mount Vernon: but Circumstances, not to be foreseen, utterly put it out of my power to begin my Journey, till such Time as I was convinced You must have set off for Williamsburgh: so that I was not *disappointed*. perhaps upon some future Occasion, I may be more fortunate It would afford me much pleasure to spend a few days with you and M^r Custis, *any* where: and, I hope it is not unsupposable that you and He (after he has been sometime an Husband) may take another journey to the northward.

I will write to M^r C. when I send the Accounts. In the mean Time I beg my best Regards to Him, & am, D^r S^r with great Esteem & Respect, Your

Most obed^t Serv^t &c. &c.

M COOPER

You must excuse the *Scrawl* for the Ink, every second, freezes in my Pen.

eral claims which you have taken the trouble to collect, against Mr. Custis; whose residence at Kings College, I little expected would have been of such short duration; otherwise, I shou'd not (as his guardian) have thought myself justified in incurring so great an expense; not that I think he could have got conveniently & agreeably fixed in the College for less than what is charged on that account, but then, for the benefit of only three months residence there, this might have been avoided, — however, as his discontinuance at it, is an act of his own, & much against my judgment, he can only blame me (if he blames at all) for yielding too easily to his importunities, supported by the concurrence of his relations. — I could have wished, Sir, you had been pleased to make a charge in the acct for your own trouble, or that I knew what was customary & proper to be allowed on these occasions." — Washington to Dr. Cooper, April 15, 1774.

FROM ROBERT ADAM, ESQ.

ALEXANDRIA January 12th 1774S^I

I am favoured with yours and Observe the Contents I am very senceable of the disadvantages a person must Labour under who ~~who~~ wants experimental knowledge in any undertakeing whatever & more especially in the plan that you have to execute at present. And that James Clievland is by farr a properer person for such Business,¹ but what Induced me to think of recommending M^r Young, was you mentioning M^r Thompson I thought him rather fitter for your purpose as he would be engaged in no other Business but that of Looking after your people and the other proposed doing a little in the Tradeing way for him self — I have Communicated your letter to M^r Young he is exceedingly sencable of your favour in Offering him employment of any kind and will very Chearfully engage in your Service for One Year the Wages he had from Doct^r Ross was he tells me Twenty Five Guineas and he thinks that less would not keep him in Cloaths he is willing to take the same from you, And I hope (should the Terms be agreeable to you) that he will endeavour to give you full Content in whatever you may think fitt to employ him in, and is realy thankfull for getting into some employment. The Objection you make on the Reason of his leaveing Doct^r Ross, Its very necessary you should be fully satisfied in and your reasons

¹ The agreement with and instructions to James Cleveland in the capacity of overseer of the improvements to be put upon Washington's lands on the Ohio are bound in a volume of miscellaneous manuscripts, and are dated January 10, 1775.

for it are exceedingly just. It was the first thing I ask'd him befor I ever mentioned any thing of your Business to him, he told me there was no particular reason for his leaveing him Only he had little for him to do, and haveing a relation lately come in to him who had been Missfortunate in Trade at home he was under some Obligation to give him Bread, And that he was suffered to do all the Business, he says that after the Arrivall of the Doct^r Friend he thought he Observed a little Coolness more than was Common, and that he took an oportunity to Ask him if any part of his Conduct had given any Offence or if he thought him in any thing short of his duty, he Frankly told him that he had no Cause of Complaint, only being under the necessity of doing some thing for his Friend he had not Sufficient employ for both upon which M^r Young told him he would immediately look out for some employment else where, and Accordingly came straight over here I hope & trust he is perfectly Honest, that the Doct^r has trusted him in generall with his Business and in receiveing Considerable Sums of of Money I do know of my own knowledge, but in Order to Satisfy y^e more fully he will when he goes over for his Cloaths to Bladensburgh bring you a Line from the Doct^r soon as the River Opens — If he answers your expectations it will be realy pleaseing to me As nothing gives me more real Satisfaction than rendering you any Services in my power

I am Respectfully

Si Your Most Humb: Serv^t

ROBERT ADAM

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

SPRING GARDIN Jan^y 15th 1774D^R SIR/

Inclosed is the Expences of Last Summers Trip a Survaying the Soldiers Land, and two Small things omited in the former Accounts four Bags Roted out the first Trip in the Wett weather and the Kaggs was let go on the Difrent time com up for Provision to people and maid use of going Down to put flower and Salt in

Should you have Setled with the Company for the hole never mind them you may Strick them out of the account

I do not Remember wheather I mentioned Col^l Muse^s Account to you in my other letters, he Drew an order to me on you which Sum is the Expençe of Deviding the L^d and I know he intends Charging you More, but I do not think he Ought to be paid any Other, as he has Expended Double as much as there was any Occasion for

I have Drawn an order on you in fever of John Hite for fifty pounds, which pay when it suts you; I have wrote him I must wait your time; as you had not got your Affairs Setled, I cold not Draw Emedetly on you for Cash, as I did not now that you had Receved any part of the mony.

I Should be Glad if you can help my Brother Val^e Crawford to any mony or any thing he wants without Disoblidgeing your self; and any thing you want in the Spring that I can help you to it shall be Ready for you, if you will let me know by the first Opertunity

I Intend Publick house keep^{ing} and I am prepared for it now, As I can Live no Longer without that, or Ruining my Self, Such number Constantly Traveling the Road and no body Keep^{ing} any thing for horses but my Self, som Days now If I hed Rum I cold mak three pounds a day: I have sent for Rum by V Crawford, and can Suply you with what you want as Cheep as you can bring it hear for, if you Cary it your Self Your favour done me now among others Shall be thankfully

Repaid by your most Humb. Sarvt —

W .. CRAWFORD

FROM DOCTOR JOHN CONNOLLY.

WESTMORELAND GOAL Feb^r 1st 1774.

DEAR SIR

I wrote you from Fredericksburgh on my return into this Country, apologizing for my not waiting on you, as I could have wished, & conformable to my promise — I hope you will excuse me for thus intruding upon you, when warranted by so slight an Acquaintance; but the importance of the Subject, with the desire I have to further our intimacy, (I flatter myself) will render me pardonable.

When we slightly touched upon the Pennsylvania Claim to this Western Country,¹ (which I could have

¹ The boundary controversy between Pennsylvania and Virginia dated back as far as 1752, and was not finally settled until the completion of the Mason and Dixon line. To effect a cessation of differences, Alexander McClean, of Pennsylvania, and Joseph Neville, of Virginia, were appointed in 1781 to complete this line as a temporary boundary between these States until the country should be at peace and able to give

wished to have enlarged upon) I was at that ^{time} before, & often since much surprized at the neglect of your Country, in allowing their Claim here, to lie dormant; when every equitable pretensions can be urged in her favor. There is now an ample field open for you, & as I think a foundation which will admit of a valuable Superstructure. — As the Agents of Pennsylvania have latterly extended their Jurisdiction as far West, as the Settlements are formed; the Inhabitants being grievously oppressed, by the enormous expence attending such a course of Justice, applied to His Excellency Lord Dunmore to afford them Relief; As I was well convinced that Pittsburgh, Red-Stone, & all the other Western Settlements, could not properly be within the Limits of Pennsylvania, & despising usurpation, as well as feeling the distress of the poor People, I urged the matter warmly to his Lordship, & He hath been pleased, to appoint a number of Magistrates at Pittsburgh, & to the Westward; determining to concert such measures with the Honorab^e House, as might bring the Pennsylvanians to some equitable determination of their Western Boundary; which his Lordship conceived could not be more effectually accomplished than by erecting a *New County* to include Pittsburgh. As I was an Officer appointed, I have been committed to Goal for denying the Jurisdiction of Penn-

the subject proper consideration. In 1783, the Rev. John Ewing, David Rittenhouse, John Lukens, and Thomas Hutchins were appointed by Pennsylvania, and Bishop Madison, Rev. Robert Andrews, John Page, and Andrew Elliott of Maryland, by Virginia, commissioners for running this line. Their report was adopted December, 1784, and this long dispute settled for all time.

syl^t at Pittsburgh, & attempting to act under a Commission from Virginia — You may now observe (Sir) what an extraordinary field you have ~~now~~ to look into, & examine your Rights here, compared with Pennsylvania, which most undoubtedly hath usurped Jurisdiction, as well as Territory, (in my humble opinion) affrontive to a Royal Colony. How dangerous to admit of such proceedings, permit me to shew you, by transcribing part of Lord Campden's opinion on the dispute between Connecticut & Pennsylv^a

“ If all the Colonies of North America were to remain at this day bounded, in point of right, as they are described in the original Grant of each, I do not believe there is one Settlement in that part of the Globe, that has not, in some measure, either been encroached upon, or else usurped upon, its Neighbours, so that if the Grants themselves were the only Rule between the contending Plantations, there never could be an end of their disputes, without unsettling large Tracts of Land, when the Inhabitants have no better ^{Title} Right to produce, than either Possession, or Posterior Grants, which in point of Law would be superseded by prior Charters. Hence I conceive, that many other Circumstances must be taken into consideration besides the Parchment Boundary; for that may at this day be extended or narrowed by POSSESSION, ACQUISITION, or AGREEMENT, by the situation & condition of the Territory at the time of the Grant, as well as by various other matters.

This opinion was given in the year 1761, & from

hence you may observe the Scheme of the Proprietaries, which indeed their officers do not fear to conceal, the[y] say as Will^m Penn's Grant by King Charles could not be properly executed, owing to a prior Grant of King James' to Lord Baltimore, which prevented him from extending as far South, as the Charter specified, & therefore obliged Him to purchase ~~from Lord Baltimore~~ the deficiency from Lord Baltimore; by virtue of occupancy to the Westward, & the extension of their Jurisdiction, they will insist upon an adequate proportion of the Crown's Lands, on the Ohio. How equitable this Claim may be, as well as modest, I submit to your opinion, but I am certain however, that if Virginia doth not vigorously exert herself upon this occasion, notwithstanding the just pretensions of that Colony, by prior occupancy, Grants, & Conquest, yet I am sure Pennsylvania will carry the point, by a steady & politic adherence to her Interest. As you (Dear Sir) have had a principal part in defending this his Majesty's Territory, ~~from~~ against the attacks of an open & publick Enemy, you will also (I flatter myself) contribute no small assistance, in defeating the ^{same} sinister designs of a private one.¹

I am Dear Sir

Your Fr^d & most obed^t Serv^t

JOHN CONNOLLY

¹ When John Connolly returned to Pittsburg, he brought with him an appointment by Lord Dunmore as commandant at Fort Pitt, which had been demolished by the King's orders, and magistrate of Augusta County, including Pittsburg and its environs. His instructions were to reestablish the fort, and to take forcible possession of the town and surrounding country in the name of Virginia. On January 24, Connolly was arrested by Arthur St. Clair, then a magistrate of Westmoreland County, Penn.
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N: B: Please to make my Compliments to Col: Ma-
son your Neighbour, & if you judge proper, you may
shew my Letter. I am to be enlarged To Morrow
on my Parole of honor, to surrender myself to the
Sherif when demanded, & shall set off for Pitts-
burgh.

FROM CAPTAIN EDWARD SNICKERS.

D^R SIR

I Receved youres Dated 15 of Desembr the 30 of
Janary and as Soon as the wether is Good as waggins
Can travil I Shall Send you three or fore hundrid
Bushils of Good whete and more if I find I have it
to Spare and if you Can not make payment in April
I must weaight till you Can as I have purchised M^r
Huges Right of Land I Shold be much obliged to you
if in yourepower to Send me by the Barer M^r Gist
a surtifecat that he wase an ofiser [mutilated] you and
Shold be much obliged to you to Derect me in what
manner to prosed as he is Confined in fredrick Gale
in moreland and I no not when he will be Got out

sylvania, for the distribution of "an advertisement requiring the people to meet as a militia" to sustain the action of Virginia. — *Pennsylvania Archives* and FORCE's *American Archives*. Being released on parole, he proceeded openly with his plans, raised militia to garrison Fort Pitt, which he renamed Dunmore, and arrested several Pennsylvania magistrates, and committed them to Staunton jail, Virginia. When the day for his appearance at court arrived he kept his parole, but came with an escort of militia sufficient to set Pennsylvania authority at defiance. He continued to occupy the fort, and, according to many depositions of the neighboring inhabitants, committed extraordinary outrages upon the property and persons of all who questioned his authority or the jurisdiction of Virginia. Connolly was again arrested in July, and again in November, 1775. The latter arrest was made in consequence of a letter written to John Gibson expressing loyalty to the King, and a strong condemnation of the prevailing tendencies, and resulted in a five years' imprisonment for its unlucky author.

or how youre Dereckshons in the above will Graitley
oblige youre most obedent

Humbil Sarvant

ED SNICKERS

febry 2 1774

FROM THE REVEREND DOCTOR COOPER TO JOHN PARKE
CUSTIS.

KING'S COLL: NEW YORK,
Feb. 5, 1774.

DEAR SIR,

I did myself the pleasure of writing to Col^o Wash-
ington y^e 10th of last month, and promised, in that
Letter, to write to You, & send the State of your
Accounts, by the next Week's post.

My Intention was good — but I could not act up
to it, as the Accounts could not so soon be collected.
I have, now, I hope, got them all. I do not send
them inclosed, on Account of y^e Postage: but M^r
Harper, who knows much more of Figures than my-
self, has taken the Trouble to digest them; and in
such a Manner as, I hope, will make them intelligible
enough, to a person skilled in Business at least, how-
ever they might perplex One unused to such like
Transactions.

I am apprehensive the Sum of them rises higher
than your Expectation: I own it is higher, by much,
than *I* supposed it *would* have been. *Graham's* Bill
is an *heavy* one: but You best know what Articles
You had of him. I always heard him reckoned a
dear Fellow — as I once told You; — whether he is

honest or not, is another Question: But it is certain he is a violent Presbyterian.

You will, I hope, not take it merely as a Compliment — to which Kind of Business You know I am not much addicted — when I assure You of my being very sensibly affected upon your leaving this College. The Regard I had conceived for You, from the Regularity of your Conduct, and the Goodness of your Disposition, could not possibly produce any other Effect upon me. However, I doubt not, from y^e Amiability of your *Lady-that is-or Lady-that is to be's Deportment*, Character, and Accomplishments, that she will make You happy *at home*, which is more than most People, I fear, find themselves to be *abroad*.

Our good Governor is very much indisposed, &, I presume, will hasten away to England with all possible Expedition. — Miss Bell Auchmuty, I hear, is on y^e point of Marriage, to a M^r Barton, an English Gentleman of considerable Fortune, settled at Brunswick. This is all the News I *recollect*. Indeed my Hands are so full of Business since M^r Vardill's Departure, that I cannot often stir abroad, add to which, that, for upwards of a Week past, I have been so much indisposed with a most violent Cold, as not to be able to leave even my Room.

What is become of M^r Boucher? I wrote to him, presently after my Return from Maryland; but not one Word have I heard of him since. I hope you will not be so totally engaged, after Marriage, as our Friend seems to have been

With my best Wishes for your Happiness, and

best Respects to Col^o Washington, whom, You kn
[mutilated] highly esteem,

I am, dear Sir, y^r very
affect^d Friend,
and very hble Serv^t
MYLES COOPER.

FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN PAGE.¹

DEAR SIR,

Feb⁷ 14th 1774

I have at last purchas'd M^r John Rootes Land for you. He this Day assign'd the Governors Warrant for it, to me, for your Use. I don't chuse to inclose it, for fear my Letter may miscarry, and am in hopes it will suit your Purpose as well, to receive it at Fredericksburg, the first Day of April; when I expect to have the Pleasure of meeting with you there. No Money will be requir'd of you, 'til I see you, and you think the Land sufficiently 'secur'd.

I am Sir,

Your very Serv^t

JOHN PAGE

FROM MR. ROBERT ADAM.

ALEXANDRIA, Feb⁷ 14th 1774

SIR

In regard to your Design of importing Palantines into Virginia I believe it would be attended with some difficulty from severall Circumstances, they are

¹ Governor of Virginia from 1802 to 1804. He was born at Rosewell, Gloucester County, April 17, 1744; died at Richmond, Virginia, October 11, 1808.

in generall much prejudiced against coming into Virginia or Maryland as in either they are not allowed the same liberty of Conscience in enjoying their own Religion this Naturally Inclines them more to Pensilvania, as well as the Number of their Countrymen Allready Settled in that Government, They are generally brought in there by Return ships that have carried Sugar or Rice to some port of Holland, And I am informed the[y] have not the same Liberty of transporting themselves they usually had, and that the same Number does not come to Pensil^a that formerly did, they are brought off now as it were by Stealth, and not suffered to bring any Effects with them There are no Cargoes that can be shipped from this Country to Holl^d till they are first Landed in some port of England. As many of the Glasgow ships go there with Tob^o if you intend such a plan it would be best to engage one of them to bring them out, on the best terms you could They are generally put on Board at so much a freight a full grown person makes a freight under sixteen years of age three persons make two freights and Children in proportion, the Vessels make them pay I believe about Eight pound Sterling a freight after they come into this Country but if the Money was Advanced them in Holland I suppose better might be made perhaps between 4 or 5 £ a freight, There would be a necessity for you to send a trusty Dutch Man or German home to engage the people & make them fully acquainted with the encouragement you intend y^m in Order to help to wipe of the generall Dissgust they have at comeing to this Country. but I should ima-

gine the Scotch or Irish Farmers would Suit you as well & would be much easier gott in, many of them Might be gott here at this time, as they are much distressed in their own Country — I shall endeavour to inform my self better of the Palantine Trade & inform you hereafter —

There is no Currant[s] to be had in town nor D. Refined Sugar I have sent two Loaves of Single Ref^d & a p^e Common Check which I suppose will Answer the purpose you intend it, the Molasses I bespoke for you some time ago is gone M^r Henly says M^r Washington was to Advise him in a day or two if he took it and not hearing from him disposed of it, Cap^t Conway has none I can gett you a Hh^d from M^r Hartshorn, he says very good but I have not yet seen it, There is Reasins to be gott if they will do in place of the Currants I am Respectfully

Sir Your Most Humb: Ser^t

your boy has been detained a ROBERT ADAM
little as I have but just now ————
received the lette[r], w^{ch} he had me mention

FROM BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE, ESQ.

NEW KENT Feby 16, 1774.

DEAR SIR/

I am sorry my Letter was so long on its passage to you as the most perfect Account of my proceeding with Black could not be very satisfactory, As I have not seen or heard from M^r Hill I took what I thought the best conveyance by a Gentleman who was going

directly from hence to Fredericksburg & promised me he would deliver the Letter to Col. Lewis which he has since informed me he did with my request that it might be immediately sent to you, Col. Bassett was so kind as to send yours to me this Evening and promises to deliver this to Cap^t Crawford You may depend on my care of the Bond, and compliance with every thing you desire, which will give me great pleasure if it proves any way serviceable, I had a Letter from M^r Wythe since I wrote to you in which he says, he did not know any thing more I could do with Black than I had done, unless it was to tender him the Bond you now have sent upon his complying with the Condition of it, I have not seen or heard from M^r Moore so that I cannot inform you whether M^r Black's mind is yet altered or not but tomorrow at King William Court I expect to hear something of the matter, I always concluded that Col. Byrd's Trustees would not make a Conveyance to Black until he had complied with his bargain with you, and that I take to be your best Security for M^{rs} Black's relinquishing her Dower, as she cannot but be sensible that it is greatly for her advantage to do it. M^r Wythe's saying "she would not be intitled "to Dower in the Lands in King William the legal "titles whereof are in other Persons" seems inconsistent with his former Opinion, now Col. Moore's Deed to his Trustees is found & must be a mistake, I have no doubt but she will be intitled to Dower in all except the Mill & 100 Acres of Land purchased of Seton, and altho M^r Lyons has engaged that he & Col. Pendleton will join in a conveyance to you, ^{of Romoncocke} he

thinks it not necessary & I hope it is not, I shall apply to M^r Lyons & M^r Power tomorrow for performance of their promise of a Conveyance of the Mill &c.

As it was necessary that the Serjeants & Soldiers who I contracted with for their Lands should make a personal application to the Governor, I desired them all to go down at the Court of Oyer & Terminer & not being there myself, sent a letter by M^r Aylett desiring a person there to act on my behalf with directions what to do, but M^r Aylett was so careless to loose the Letter, and my not being there or any Person to act for me furnished them with an excuse for selling their Lands at a better price than offered, few of them were honest enough to abide by their bargain with me, & the others were not informed how to direct their Warrants, but this last mistake I did not know of til now, when I heard that a sufficient number of Warrants had not been delivered to M^r Craig I sent some others, but he chose to return them as he apprehended it near too late for your purpose, I have but one Serjeant's Warrant by me^{in Augusta} which I inclose & which you are welcome to use if you have Occasion, if not, it will be no disadvantage to me to have it returned when it suits you, your keeping the others has been attended with no prejudice to me as I should not have used them, The Assemblys sitting will hinder as much time as I can spare from my other business or more, & I am a little at a loss what to do with my Warrants the principal of which is a Lieutenants 2000. Acres.

Be pleased to make a tender of my sincere Affection to my Sister, in which My Wife joins me Nancy & the Boys send their Duty to their Uncle & Aunt, I am

D^r Sir

Your very affectionate ~~hble~~ Serv^t

B DANDRIDGE

Be pleased to tell M^r Custis & his Lady that We sincerely congratulate them on their Nuptials & wish them all happiness.

N. B. I have generally thought that M^{rs} Black's unwillingness to acknowledge her right was feigned for some mean purpose of Black's, but sometimes I am inclined to think that she is afraid Black will by some means prevent her having a right to Dower in the Ja^s River land after she has acknowledged the other, this may be done, & he is capable of it.

My Paper has accidentally got dirty & I have not time to write it over.

FROM MR. BENJAMIN C. STODDERT.¹

BLAD^{EN} 17th Feb^r 1774—

SIR

I have a Tickett N^o 5272, in Lord Stirlings Lottery, the Gent^a from whom I bought it, tells me the

¹ Born in Charles County, Maryland, in 1751; died in Bladensburg, December 18,

Lottery is drawn, & that you wou'd be kind enough to inform me of the success of my Tickett, which if you do, by a Line directed to me at Bladensburgh, You will much Oblige

Sir, Y^t Obed^t Ser^t

BENJ CAN [?] STODDERT

FROM MR. EMMANUEL JONES.¹

BRASSERTON, 18 Feb^r. 1774.

DEAR SIR,

Your favour of the 25th Jan^r I receiv'd last night, & am sorry to tell You that my Voice was long since engaged to M^r Madison (our Professor of Mathematics) for his Brother: had my good friend Col: Washington made the least mention to me of Cap^a Crawford, he might have been assur'd, I would gladly have oblig'd him. The Rev^d M^r Thruston the 1st Instant wrote to me recommending Cap^a W^m Rutherford (who deliver'd the letter) and Cap^a Crawford; I told Cap^a Rutherford, that I should take great pleasure in serving them both, but was afraid I could not, as I had heard Cap^a Bullett's ill conduct had

1813. Benjamin Stoddert's signature in later years, as Secretary of the Navy (1798-1801), is without the middle name; but as the handwriting and signature are otherwise similar to the manuscript letter of February 17, 1774, it seems probable that Secretary Stoddert, of Bladensburg, and Benjamin C. Stoddert, of Bladensburg, are identical.

¹ Master of Indian school, William and Mary College, grandson of John Jones, of Anglesea, Wales, and son of the Reverend Emmanuel Jones, who came to Virginia in 1700, and was rector of Petsworth Parish, Gloucester, until his death in 1739. Immanuel Jones married Miss Macon, of New Kent County; their son was Emmanuel Macon Jones, of Essex County.

occasion'd an order of Council not to appoint any more Extra-Surveyors how true this report may be, I cannot with certainty affirm.

The best method that I can point out for Cap^a Crawford is to get a Deputation from the Surveyor of the County in whose Precinct the Part he desires is contain'd; if he can do that, I hope he will succeed, especially if he is expeditious in his Application. Our City has long expected the Arrival of Lady Dunmore: Bon-fires, Illuminations &c have been order'd these ten Days, but none yet lighted. My best respects attend M^r Washington, who I should be very glad in having the pleasure once more to see,

I am D^r Sir,

Y^r most obed^t hble Serv^t

EMMANUEL JONES.

FROM ROBERT CARY & CO.

LONDON y^e 18 Feb. 1774

S^r —

Having already wrote You by this Conveyance the Chief purpose of this is to acknowledge the rec^d of yours of the 10 Dec^r — We have accepted your Order to M^r Eden for £66. 16. 4 & deliverd the other at M^r Hanburys house, we did not see him but the Clerks said the 12 hhds were not disposed off, but we shall see him Ourselves in a day or two We are

S^r

Y^r Most Obedt Serv^t

ROBERT CARY & C^o

FROM THOMAS EDEN & CO.

LONDON 19 feby 1774

SIR

We are favour'd with yours of the 18 Oct^r with 4 hhds Tob^o & Capt Boucher, which are landed in good order & will be dispos'd of to the best advantage in our power for your Interest & the Acc^t Sales render'd as soon as sold. —

Capt Boucher we hope will meet with such dispatch this Voyage as will enable him to get home with his Cargo to an early Market & as Tob^o will be much wanted this Summer we have no doubt but prices will keep up —

The favour of your further Commands & return of Capt Boucher will much oblige

Sir

Y^r m^o. obed^t hum^o Serv^tTHO^s EDEN & C^o

FROM ROBERT BRENT, ESQ.¹

SIR

I have to acknowledge the receipt of both your letters to W^m Brent Esq^r & Self — That you have

¹ For the following information in regard to the direct ancestry of Robert Brent I am indebted to Robert Brent Mosher, Esq., of the Department of State, his great-grandson.

George Brent, son of George Brent and Marianna, daughter of Sir John Peyton Dunnington, in the Isle of Ely, came to Virginia in the seventeenth century, and settled at Woodstock, in the town of Aquia, in Stafford County. He married first the daughter of Captain William Green, and niece of Sir William Layton, and secondly the daughter of Lady Baltimore by her first husband Henry Sewell. Robert, third

not recieved an answer sooner to your first, be kind enough to admit of y^e following Apology. It was deliver'd to me by the Bearer on my way to Dumfries; As he had to proceed to Aquia, I desired him to stay till I came home; I met him early y^e next Morning, on his return, fearful of being detained by y^e Weather, and expecting to find me in Dumfries. I orderd him to acquaint his Mistress, I propos'd sending y^e following week a messenger with an Answer to your Letter, and intended to Fairfax January Court. The immediate severity and hardness of y^e Weather prevented my compliance with either y^e one, or y^e other. M^r W^m Brent depended on my answering it.

Its with the greatest reluctance, I must still entreat your accepting the Trust and Qualifying under the Will. I am very sensible of y^e Multiplicity of your business, and coul'd wish my situation was such, that I coul'd ease you of this. But for many reasons it Will be totally out of my power. Of This, Sir, I ~~made~~ made my Aunt Sensible, the Last time I saw her. and begg'd she would appoint some one else, who woul'd have it in their power to Serve her more effectually, than I was sensible I could. Its true,

son of George Brent, of Woodstock, married Susannah, granddaughter of Florentin Seymour, governor of Bermuda. Their eldest son George married Catherine Tremingham, of Bermuda. Robert Brent, eldest son of George and Catherine (Tremingham) Brent, died in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1780. He was educated by the Jesuits at the College of St. Omer in the Netherlands. He married Anne, daughter of Daniel Carroll, and the sister of the archbishop. Robert Brent was on the committee of Stafford County in 1774. He owned the quarries at Aquia that later furnished the stone for the central part of the Capitol. His second son, Robert Brent, who married Mary, daughter of Notley Young, was the first mayor of the city of Washington, and also held, among other public trusts, the offices of Judge of the Orphans' Court, and Paymaster of the Army. The sister of Robert Brent married George Mason, of Gunston Hall.

amongst others, I principally recommended her to you on y^e occasion. She declar'd that with pleasure she woul'd appoint you to ^{tr}trust, coul'd she be satisfied you woul'd accept of it. But did not care to do any thing in the matter, before you were consulted. It was on this Occasion I waited on you. I must acknowledge your then reluctance in agreeing to have your name inserted, and was but too sensible of y^e cogency of your reasons on y^e Occasion — Indeed as matters has turn'd out, I could have wish'd you had refus'd altogether, in that case, Another woul'd have been Appointed, who, tho I am convinc'd, woul'd not have Managed y^e affairs better, than they'll be if undertaken by You, yet woul'd have more time and Leisure to attend to them. It gives me much uneasiness, that I should be any ways the cause of taking you from your family, or depriving you in any part of your recreation or pleasure. I flatter myself the matter will give you not any great trouble Its more than probable M^{rs} Slaughter from this time will Live in a State of Separation from her Husband. If that is ^rcase, the trust may be said in some measure to have ceas'd, as it does on her becoming a Widow.

I did intend up to Fairfax this Court: But the uncertainty of y^e Magistrates sitting added to the deepness of y^e Roads has caus'd me to defer til March, When I will most undoubtedly be up —

I am with the greatest respect

D^r Sir —

Y^r most Ob^t H^o Ser^t

ROB BRENT

AQUILA Feby: 19th 1774

FROM JOHN PARKE CUSTIS.

MOUNT AIRY Feb^r 20th 1774HON^D SIR

How to express fully my Thankfulness for the many kind Offers you have lately made Nelly & myself; I find great Loss of Words; and shall endeavour by my future Behaviour & Actions to testify the sincere & just Regard I entertain of them, it would give me great Uneasiness to lay under such irreparable Obligations, were I not confident that they proceeded from a Generous & disinterested Mind, and that the only returns required, were Effect and regard — both of which did I not possess in the highest Degree for You; I should look upon myself to be the most insensible & Ungrateful Being on Earth; and shall strenuously endeavour by my future Conduct, to merit a Continuance of your regard and Esteem.

I had resolv'd to send Joe over to morrow, to enquire about your Healths, but the Arrival of Giles has agreeably alter'd my Plan, and satisfied me in that Particular, about which I grew anxious. — I shall dispatch Joe up to Annapolis to-morrow, with your Letters, the Answers to which I shal forward to you, as soon as I receive them, which I hope will be Monday, & you will receive them on Tuesday.

All the Family present their respectful Complements & return Thanks; for your kind Enquiry after their Healths they are all well, & expect to see you on Tuesday 1st of March, if the Weather permits. —

Nelly joins me in Love to Mamma & Yourself, and
am

with true Regard & Effecton

your much oblig'd

JOHN PARKE CUSTIS.

FROM MR. HENRY RIDDELL.

PISCATAWAY 24th February 1774

SIR

I was unluckily from home, when M^r. Young brought your Letter of the 22^d¹ to this place, otherwise an answer would have been sent you by him.

¹ This letter, incompletely published in the *Writings of Washington* and in Mr. W. C. Ford's *Washington as an Employer and Importer of Labor*, is bound with the manuscript letters to Washington.

MOUNT VERNON Feby 25th 1774 —

SIR

M^r. Young, hearing me express a desire of Importing Palatines to Settle on my Lands on the Ohio, tells me, that, in discoursing of this matter in your Company, you suggested an expedient which might, probably, be attended with Success; and if I Inclined to Adopt it, wish'd to be inform'd before the sailing of your Ship. —

The desire of seating and Improving of my Lands on the Ohio is founded on interest, as well as Political Views; but the intention of importing Palatines for this Purpose, was more the effect of sudden, and undigested thought than mature Consideration; because I am totally unacquainted with the manner, as well as expence of doing it; and was led into the notion, principally, from a report of either this or some other Ship of your's, being blamed for not taking an offerd freight of these Germans at Forty Shillings Sterling — This induced me to think if this Charge was not much Accumulated by other Expences, that I could fall upon no better expedient to Settle my lands with Industrious People, than by such an Importation.

The Terms upon which I have thought of Importing Palatines, or People from Ireland, or Scotland (both of which have been Recommended to me) are these —

To Import them at my expence, when they are unable to transport themselves at their own, into this River, and from hence to the Ohio.

To have them in the first case engaged to me under Indenture; In the second, by some other Contract equally valid, to become Tenants upon the Terms hereafter mentioned; as without these Securities, I would not encounter the Expence, trouble, and hazard of such an Importation. but

To make Matters as easy, and as agreeable as Possible to these Emigrants, I will

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When M^r Young mentioned in conversation your desire of importing Palatines to settle your Lands on

engage on my part, that these Indentures shall be considered in no Other light than as a Security for Reimbursing me every Expence I am run to (with Interest) in importing them. — Removing them to the Land — & supporting them there, till they can raise a Crop for their own Subsistence. Giving up the said Indentures, and considering them altogether as freemen and Tenants, so soon as this shall happen; not to each person or Family Respectively, but when the whole Accumulated Expence is discharged; as I must for my own Safty, consider them as jointly bound to this payment till the Expiration of the Indented Terms, Otherwise I must be an inevitable looser by every death, and other Accident; whilst they cannot (in the worst light) be consider'd as more than Servants at Large, during the Indented term.

I can also engage to set them down upon as good Land as any in that Country; and where there is neither house built, nor Land clear'd, will allow them an Exemption of Rent four Years; and where there is a house Erected, and five Acres of Land clear'd and fit for Cultivation two Years. —

I will also engage the Land to them upon lease for Twenty one Years under the usual Covenants; and also at an annual Rent (after the first becomes due) of Four pounds Sterling for each Hundred Acres; allowing each Family to take more or less as Inclination or convenience may Prompt them. — And I will moreover engage to Renew the leases at the Expiration of the above Twenty one years; and in like manner at the end of every Seven Afterwards, upon an Increased Rent to be agreed on between the Landlord and tenant; or, in order to fix the matter absolutely if this shall be more Agreeable, the Rent may be Increased at these periods in Proportion to the increased Value of that, or the adjoining Lands, possessed of equal advantages of Soil and Situation. —

These are the Terms on which I thought to Import, and Plant People on my Ohio Lands, which are for the Quantity, equal if not Superior to any in that Country; laying altogether upon the Ohio or Great Kanhawa; two fine Inland Navigable Rivers (Resembling the Rhine in Germany) and abound in Fish and Wild fowl of all sorts, as the Lands do in wild Meats of the best kinds.

From Alexandria to the Navigable Waters of Ohio along a much frequented road used by Waggon's, is, according to the Computed distance 200 Miles. — this Land Carriage if the Inland Navigation of Potomack should be effected, than which I think nothing easier, will be reduced to sixty miles as matters now stand; some say 40; and Others are of Opinion to twenty Miles; but call it the greater distance, any Commodity made upon any part of these Lands (of mine) may be transported along a very easy water Communication to the Settlement of Red-Stone where the Land Carriage at this time begins; To say Nothing therefore of the Advantages of raising stock of all kinds, and Horses, which will carry themselves to Market, and are now and will, from the Nature of things Continue to be in great demand in the Interior parts of this Great Continent; Hemp, Flax, Pott-ash, Indigo &c. &c. will well afford the Expence of this Land Carriage (admitting it never is reduced) and can be Cultivated to Great Advantage on the River bottom's in that Country, as most, indeed all, of these Lands of mine Consist. —

Having thus exhibited a general View of my design, I shall now be obliged to you Sir, to Inform me with as much Precission as you can what certainty there is of your ship's gowing to Holland? what probable certainty there is of its getting Palatines if

the Ohio, the remembrance of Cap^t Hyndmans having refused to accept a freight of 500 of these People, produced in me a thought, that perhaps through the channell of our Companys Agent at Rotterdam, the number you want might be procured; and as our Ships frequently came from thence to this Country, the importing them might be of advantage to both of us — This reflexion induced me to acquaint you by M^r Young, that a trial of this kind could be made, which if agreeable to you, I would do my utmost to make successfull. But here it is necessary to inform you that my only view of profit in this Scheme, is from the freight — I have no other — I would propose, that you should be charged with the money advanced for procuring the Palatines — if imported at your expense, and to be liable for Interest on that

it does go there? when they might be expected in this Country? What would be the freight; and, as near as you can Judge the whole Incident Expence attending each Person deliverd at Alexandria? And Moreover whether it would be expected that the whole of these Charges (Including freight) should be paid down immediately upon the Arrival of the Ship here, as it must Appear rather hard, to make a Certain Provision for an uncertain Event. —

I was near forgetting to observe, that, I should not choose to be Incumberd with a great Number of small people (Children) because they would add greatly to my trouble and Expence, at the same time that they contributed nothing to my design. — I do not however by this mean to be Totally exempt from them; but in case of choice, to avoid those Families which have too many of the small fry in them. — It may not be amiss further to observe, that, I see no prospect of these People being restrained in the smallest degree either in their Civil, or Religious Principles; which I take notice of, because these are Priviledges which Mankind are sollicitous to enjoy, and Emigrants must be Anxious to know. —

I had wrote to Philadelphia by the last post (previous to the receipt of your Message) for full information of the manner and Charges of Importing these People from Holland. — And if your Account in Answer to this Letter should prove Agreeable to my wishes; I could send a more descriptive Account of the Lands, I want to Settle, as well as Copies of the plots and do any other matter or thing which might be judged necessary to further the design. —

And am Sir

Y^r Most H^{ble} Serv^t.

G^o WASHINGTON

money till paid — also to be accountable for the freight when the People are landed here, which is customary.

With regard to the success of this Scheme I can give you no certainty — The Cap^t who refused the freight, above mentioned, told me, that the German Princes whose Territorys lie upon the Rhine, had prohibited their Subjects from emigrating to America, but that the People get away privately, come down the Rhine in famillys, and land at Rotterdam, where they wait for Shipping — The 500 Palatines or Germans offered him were such People as above described — they had money sufficient to bring them here, and offered two Guineas \pounds Poll freight, they to lay in their own Provisions — A Ship bound to Philadelphia accepted the offer.

The only way I can point out for making a trial of this kind, is; for you to write a Letter of Instruction, in which can be inserted the terms on which you would chuse to contract with Germans — the Provision you have in view for them, and any other things which may tend to bend the minds of these People to a settlement in Virginia, and also to point out the distinction in making contracts with those who may have money sufficient to bear their charges — and those who may not. This Letter of Instruction I would forward immediately, that means may be used to engage the People, before the Ships arrival at Rotterdam, and if the Plan succeeds, I will agree to transport them to this Country for Two Pounds Sterling \pounds Poll, you to be at the expense of laying

in their Provisions and Stores, we to find them Ship room, and to land them either at your Landing, or at Alexandria.

I can certainly say that some of our Companys Ships will go to Rotterdam this ensuing Summer, and it is probable this will be the destination of the Ship to load at the Mouth of Piscataway Creek, if so, her arrival in this Country from thence, may be in August or September; But I cannot with precision say, what the Germans may cost you landed here. — For my own part I am unacquainted with the Business, any farther than the information which Cap^t Hyndman gave me last Summer — from what he said, I conjecture that the Germans imported into this Country lately, have paid their own Charges, but how they are provided for, or dispose of themselves after being imported, is what I am intirely ignorant of, however this I could know by writing to Philadelphia.

It would give me pleasure to be of service to you, in this importation And I am

Sir Your very hble Serv^t

HENRY RIDDELL

¹ Washington's draft of a reply to Mr. Riddell is bound with the manuscript letters to Washington.

MOUNT VERNON March 1st 1774.

SIR,

On Sunday afternoon, your favour of the 24th Ult^o came to my hands — as you profess to know but little of the expence attending the Importation of Palatines, and ~~as~~ ^{being} it is a business I ~~have not the least knowledge of~~ ^{am totally ignorant of myself} I am afraid to plunge into it without further consideration & advice and therefore, must lay aside my Scheme ~~at~~ ^{to wait. I beg leave to refuse,} ~~least~~ ^{have already given} for the present; But as I ~~gave~~ ^{first} you a general view of my Scheme Plan in my last Letter I would ~~first have leave to ask whether,~~ ^{is of Importance enough to} it would be worth while for any of your Ships coming from Rotterdam hence, to take in a freight of about 80 or an hundred ^{with not more than one CHILD to a Family, could} of these Germans provided that number of Men, or men & their Wives ~~can~~ be had

FROM MR. HENRY RIDDELL.

PISCATAWAY 2^d March 1774

SIR

I cannot certainly engage to import the number of Germans mentioned in your Letter of the 1st for

under the usual Indenture? If this could be done I would, at all events make trial of that number & kind; but ~~would not~~^{do not incline to} encounter the Inconvenience & expence of Families encumbered with many Children ~~which will only serve to enhance~~^{as these will add to} My expences without contributing to My design. — I will either consider these People as my property during the Indented term, affording them ~~the~~^{a reasonable & necessary support & maintenance} [illegible] ~~reasonable~~ support & receive the fruits of their labour during the Stipulated Servitude Or, if they will be jointly bound for each other and let their Indentures remain as ~~the only~~^{Security (wh. is all} [?] security the nature of the case will admit of) ~~for performance thereof~~ that all the expence I am put to in Importing, Planting, & supporting them on the Land, till they can raise a Crop for themselves, shall be repaid me with Interest, they may be considered as free People, & appropriate the fruits of their labour (having regard to my ~~advancements~~^{disbursements}) in any manner they please. — In the latter case, they must be considered from the first, as Tenants, upon the terms mentiond in my last —. In the first ~~they~~^{once they will} go to the Land under these favourable Circumstances, and assurance of becoming Tenants at the expiration of their Indented term, upon the very farms they have made so that in Fact, they ultimately reap the benefit of their own labour, bestowed at my expence ~~in~~^{during} their Servitude. — thus much for the Indented People. — as to those who are able & ~~wish to pay~~^{desire of paying} the expence of their own Passages, I can be under no Engagement ~~unless it be~~^{to them} reciprocal; that is, I will encounter no expence or engage in any promise to them if they are left at large with me; ~~but if they are able by themselves to become Tenants~~^{although I could undertake upon their engaging to do so} upon the Terms mentioned in my last, ~~I could undertake~~^{no} to provide them in good Land in the Neighbourhood of the other's; so ~~that they may form an entire Settlement of their own, as I suppose there is Land enough (belonging to me) to afford comfortable farms for 300 Families.~~^{being} —

If you think you can supply ~~me~~^{no} with this number ~~of Palatines of these kinds, & upon these terms, I should be glad to know it between this and Saturday; as I shall then undertake a journey, from which I shall not be returnd till the 20th of March; and ~~if~~^{in whatever manner} you think a more formal proposition ~~(than is containd in this & my former Letter)~~^{or declaration of my intention} necessary ~~and will please to point it out the mode & necessary address in it & to whom I will~~^{be made should}~~

owing to my ignorance of the Trade, I have no consistent principle, or anything like a certainty, to induce me, to enter on a positive Agreement, for the delivery of these people here. But should you chuse it, I can forward to Rotterdam the terms you offer such Germans as are able to export themselves, — and also the terms you offer those who are not, and therefor must come under Indenture before exportation. Should the people accept of these terms — the Ship will bring them out — if not, you will be subjected to no other inconvenience than a delay in the settlement of your Lands for a few Months, With regard to those People who are able to export themselves — no money will be required from you or us to set them down here; but in exporting the Indented Servants, some charges which do not now occur to us, may be required — would it not therefor be proper that you inform me of the price ^{per} Poll you would be satisfied to give, for the delivery of such Servants here, that in calculating the expense, my Friend might keep within your limits. Altho the number you mention is small, yet if you chuse to be troubled with no more for the present, I will endeavour to get you these, but can make no positive Agreement to deliver them here, It will be necessary that you mention the number of years the Indented Servants must agree for, and should you relish this

endeavour to do it. — In the meanwhile, I have to thank you sir for y^r. obliging offers to serve me in this matter, & to assure you that I am,

Y^r. Most Obed^t. H^{ble} Serv^t,

G^o. WASHINGTON

Plan, I will give orders that no others than such as you describe shall be ~~agreed~~ engaged I am

Sir

Your most obed^t Servant

HENRY RIDDELL¹

¹ Washington's reply is bound with the manuscript letters to Washington.

MOUNT VERNON March 5th 1774

SIR

The Reasons which you Assign for not undertaking positively to furnish me with the number & kind of Palatines mentioned in my last Letter, I must Confess are cogent; at the same time it obliges me, under that uncertainty, to lay aside the Scheme till I can be advis'd from Phil^a. (to which place I had written for Information previous to your first conversation with M^r Young) of the expence & certainty attending a measure of this kind: For the disadvantage on my side, of Standing bound to provide for these people if they do come, & haveing no certainty of receiving them, is, that if any other Scheme Shoud cast up in the mean while, I dare not embrace it, or engage Tenants singly, as they occasionally may offer; as I have no doubt of many doing, when there are Houses and fields prepared to there hands; otherwise I might be involv'd in difficulties from which I could not easily extricate myself; but if it is Necessary to you to know (on Acc^t. of giving the earliest Information to your Correspondent) whether these people will be wanting, or not before I can return from Berkeley, Frederick &c. I shall have no objection towards Importing the Number & kinds mentioned in my last, provided they will come indented to me, or my Assigns in the Usual manner for Four years; and be sold, if I Find it my Interest to do so (as they are in philadelphia as common Servants, dureing that term. — I cannot suffer much from the Uncertainty, if they are to be had upon these terms, & I see no reason why they may not as well come here as to Phil^a. except that the latter is the general rendezvous of them: It may therefore rest with you, Sir, to write immediately, or not, for Eighty or a Hundred of such kinds as I mentioned in my last; as you shall find it your Interest; and I will upon their arrival at Piscataway, pay you the Freight down; as also the contingent charges with Interest as soon after as I possibly can, in case I shoud not find it convenient to deposit the whole sum at once; —

If you should not think this project of consequence enough to the Interest of your Ship, to attempt it, I must decline the importation altogether, for the present. — If on the other Hand you Incline to make the experiment, I shall rely on your Friendship to recommend to the Capt^a or person who is to provide the Stores, to lay them in upon ~~upon~~ the best terms, & be governed by the customary allowance; both in respect to quantity & quality, taking care to have no stint of the first as the Surplusage can be accounted for upon the delivery here, I shall add no more at present than that

I am Sir,

Your Most Obed^t Hb^t Serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON

FROM COLONEL WILLIAM PRESTON.¹FINCASTLE ² March 7th 1774

SIR

I rec^d your Letter Inclosing a Warrant for 2000 Acres, & a Certificate of M^r Crawford's for 2050 Acres in the Fork of the great Kanhawa and Cole River, by favour of M^r Young.

Be assured Sir that nothing could have given me greater Pleasure than to have complied with your Request had it been in my Power; and the rather as I see nothing in it that is unreasonable or unprecedented. When I was last at W^m^sburg his Lordship
^{me with} presented [^]two Platts of 2000 Acres each one for Doct^r Connilly & the other for one Warrenstaff and requested, nay even urged me to sign them; as they had been Accurately Surveyed by M^r Douglas, an Assistant to Cap^t Bullet who had been regularly appointed by the College, I with some Reluctance Signed the Certificates by which those Gentlemen immediately obtained Patents. This Transaction has made a great deal of Noise; & indeed it is the Opinion of many good Judges that the Patents are

¹ Born in County Donegal, Ireland, December 25, 1729; died at his home, Smithfields, in Montgomery County, Va., July 28, 1783. Colonel Preston, himself a man of no little prominence, was the father of Governor James Patton Preston and General Francis Preston, and the grandfather of General John Smith Preston, Major Thomas Lewis Preston, Senator William Campbell Preston, William Ballard Preston, Secretary of the Navy during the latter part of Zachary Taylor's administration, and William Preston, U. S. Minister to Spain under Buchanan. In 1761, Colonel Preston married Susanna Smith, of Hanover County.

² In 1773, William Preston was appointed county surveyor of what was then Finncastle County. This county, formed from Botetourt in 1772, was in 1776 divided into Kentucky, Montgomery, and Washington counties. It embraced all southwest Virginia and Kentucky.

altogether illegal. This alone is my Reason for not complying with your Request, and the promise I then made to Col^l Lewis on your Behalf; for at that Time I could not foresee any ill Consequence that could attend such a Step.

I have Advertized the Officers who obtained Warrants from Lord Dunmore to meet my Assistants at the Mouth of New River the 14th of April. Two of ~~these Assis~~ the Assistants will go from hence down the River, and not far from the mouth of Cole River they intend to provide Canoes to proceed down the Ohio. I can think of no better Method than what Col^l Lewis has proposed; which is, that one of them on his way down shall Survey the Land and by the first Opportunity send me the Plan to be recorded. Col^l Lewis says he will endeavour to persuade his Son to go, or send a Surveyor, to lay off the Tract you have in Botetourt, & that he will return from thence immediately: Should the Col^l Succeed in this, then my Assistant could send up the Plan, & by that Means, M^r Lewis & myself might have it in our Power to send you the Certificates before the rising of the next Session of Assembly. — If M^r Lewis can neither go, or send down the River at that Time, I shall leave no method in my Power unattempted to have your Survey made and returned to you before the Assembly rises, or to Col^l Bassett afterwards, who I suppose will transact the Business for you. — In the mean time I shall Enter the Land on my Book & send you a Copy this I suppose will secure it to you untill it can be legally Surveyed.

The 2000 Acres on Salt River which Cap^t Bullet

mentioned to you & which he laid off last year, has been Entered some Time ago by Cap^t Christian. M^r Young has a Copy of the Entry. I believe all the Salt Springs discovered in that Country have been Entered.

I am Sorry it was not in my Power to comply with your Request, but for the Reasons I have given I hope you will excuse me, and the more so as I shall do all I can to have your Land Surveyed early in the Season, for which purpose I have kept M^r Crawford's Certificate that it may be laid off accordingly.

I am with great Regard Sir

Your most Obed^t hble Serv^t

W^m PRESTON

FROM MAJOR ANDREW LEWIS.

RICHFIELD BOTETOURT COUNTY March 9th 1774

DEAR SIR —

Your favour by M^r Young I rec^d and am Sorry as Matters have turned out that I did not instid of returning You Your Warants &c. Put them in the hands of the diffrant Surveyers which would have saved you the expence of this Express. however this is the Only loss You can sustain on that Account As fare as I can judge for I have kept it a secreat, that those two Surveys You Send y^e worth of are Not Part of y^e 200000 Acres — My Son Who is Surveyer of this County is Out on Green-Brier Surveying & Will not return from that Quarter for some time. however as I am soon to go out to that place Shall

Put Your Warrant in his hand and as he will have other Lands to Survey in that Quarter shall desire that he or his Assistant shall go down and Survey Yours in Particular so that if Posable y^e Works may be Sent down to You in Williamsburg before the last of the Approching Session of Assembly If you Will take the trouble To look in the Law with regard to y^e appointment of Surveyers and their duty in that Office. You will with me be of Opinion ~~with me~~ that a Patent Procured on the Works which You desire to be Signed, would be ilegal and Voyd to all intents & purposes If ever it came to be disputed, Not to Mention Anything of the Surveyer forfeiting is Bond. Doct^r Connolys Obtaining a Patent in a way similar to what You desire, has made so great a Noise that it is in every bodys Mouth & in Particular the Lawyers who say that it may be set aside at any time, and indeed a man who has a Warrant for two thousand Acres has entred the Very Land that y^e Docter Obtained a Patent for, & I am told is incuraged & inclined to disput y^e matter. So that on the whole My D^r Sir I would advise You by all means to strictly follow y^e Steps of the Law that your title affure Obtaining it may be Proof aganst y^e Artifices of Designing Men. I have wrote by M^r Young to Col^o Preston and desired him in case he should think you and himself unsafe in immediately signing a certificat of y^e Work as done by M^r Crawford to Order one of his Surveyers as they go down to y^e Ohio to Survey y^e Lands by the Works You have sent him and to send you y^e certificat so that you may have it at Williamsburg. Apriel y^e 14th

day is the time Advertized in the Gaze^e for the Diffrant Claiments to met y^e Surveyers at y^e Mouth of y^e Great Kanawa, so that by all Probability an Oppertunity will offer of sending the Field Work to Col^o Preston so that You may have Certificat as above. As soon as I see the Clark of this County I shall direct him to apply to the Apr^t Court, for we have no Court this Month, for an Order to Value Your Improvements. but whether y^e Court will Issue it Blank or not is the doubt, it is Customary to Name y^e Persons in y^e Order. but a still greater Objection stands in the way. that of having The Men Who Makes y^e Valuation Sworn by a Majestrate of this County, and indeed I do not at Present know of any that will be in that quarter about that time. If no such Opportunity should Offer it would be best to have y^e Men Sworn before A Justice at Fort Pitt as I understand there are Several in that quarter added to y^e didemos of Augusta. This would not be exactly according to Law but it is the only remedde I can think of —

For some days past we have had repeted advices by travelers that the Creeks Cherokees & Chocktaws have joined in a war aganst Our Southeran Provinces, that a Number of familys were cut off that since that first strock several Battles have been fought in the most of which y^e Indians had the Advantage. at first I payed but little regard to those reports. but since I wrote y^e above I am from certant Information persuaded that it is a Melancoly truth several Persons who has been Eye Witnesses of the dredfull effects of Savage Cruelty, & they further add that

five-hundred Creeks are at this time amongst the Cherokees prepared to make a stroke, but where no person can tell. So Allarming is the Acct^e that Our Settlers on The Holston & other Rivers in that quarter are Forting up & Scouts are Keapt out to watch the approach of y^e Enemie. Indeed I am afread ~~that~~ that the Ohio Indians are in the Plot at least I am confident that they were Acquainted of the designs of y^e Southeron Indians. And that nothing deters them from Joining the others but their being so Near Nighbours to Our Settlements below Fort Pitt. They ought to be Strictly Watched from Fort Pitt & if it can be discovered that they are about to Move their famyls they may be expected Open Enemies. If those troubles encress or even continue it will put a stop to Our designs On y^e Ohio, I was Oblaged to Lay aside this Letter for an hour or two in Order to Make the Governar Acqueanted with the Reports. as Cap^t Russell of Fincastle is on his way in behalf of Our Holston Settlements —

I hop to have the Pleasure of seeing You in Williamsburg On the Assembly. Were it not for that Meeting I should have thought, and indeed was fully determined to take a trip down the Ohio, as well to see the Country in general as to have my 5000 Acres Layed off, but how fare we might be Justifiable in laying Ourselves at the Merce of the Savages, as Matters are like to turn Out, is to be considered. however in a short time we shall be able to judge better of their dispositions & conections —

I hop to be able to discharge the Acc^t You inclosed Me on Our Meeting in May at which time I shall

mention my thoughts as to y^e Manner M^r Crawford has Layed of Our Lands Some of us has Suffered exceedingly by the takeing in bad Lands with out his being under the Least Necessity of so doing only that y^e Surveying it to Advantage would have taken a little more time & trouble, I shall be more particular when I see You. I heartily wish that John Smiths Lot which I payed him for had been Patented in my Name or rather that I had been Mentioned in the Patent^{as} Assignee of John Smith. I have been told that he has been tempted by a a Man Who I know to be a Villian to sell it, but perhaps My Not leaveing Smiths Assignment with You may be the cause of Smiths Name being in y^e Patent in [mutilated] of mine. this may give me some trouble tho I think [mutilated] loose y^e Lands I shall put an end to a letter spu [mutilated] to an unreasonable Lenth. by saying that I am with [mutilated]

Regard D^r Sir Youre

Most Obed^t Servant

AND^w LEWIS

FROM JOSEPH CHEW, ESQ.

JOHNSON HALL March, 10th 1774

DEAR SIR

though it is a long time since I have had the Pleasure of writing to you, it is not so, with Respect of my inquiries of your health and Happiness and the accounts my Lord Sterling gave me last summer were very agreeable his Lordship informed me he spent Some time with you in Virginia Very Happily

I am informed my Lord Dumore is now Granting lands to the Officers who served in the Virg^a Regiments during last war — my Poor Brother Colbys Services and Misfortune¹ will I should think indebt his heir who I am to a Grant, and as it is Very inconvenient for me to attend Upon his Lordship my Self I have desired my friend and Relation M^r Madison to make the application and for fear of any Objections my Excellent friend and Benefactor Sir William Johnson has wrote a few Lines to my Lord on the subject I flater my Self I may Claim your favour and friendship in this Matter, and the more so when I inform you that for some years I have met with such Losses and Misfortunes that I have been oblinded to begin the world anew, and have fixed upon this part of the Country for no other Reason than the Continuance and Favour of Sir William, I am sure if a Grant is Obtained in my favour you will Extend your kindness and give M^r Madison your Advice where to make the survey

I should be Very Happy to have the Honour of a few Lines from you and know your sentiments of the New Government on the Ohio, which I believe gives the Indians much uneasiness as they are more in fear of our Countrymen than all the Rest of the Colonies, and therefore dread their Neighbourhood — I wish the Breach that's made to the southward may not Extend further to the North. I am sure Sir William is much afraid of it and takes Every step he possibly Can to prevent it

I know your goodness will Excuse this Liberty in

¹ Vol. iii. p. 113.

an unfortunate old Acquaintance who is with the
greatest Esteem Respect and best Wishes for your
Happiness

Dear sir

Your most Obed^t

Hble Serv^t

JOS CHEW

FROM SERGEANT WILLIAM HUGHES.

March 12 1774 FREDRICK TOWN GALE¹

GOOD SR/

I am hear Confined in prison and has Bin for
about two yeres and if you will only Right a fue
Lines to Govener Eden to See if he will for Give me
his part of the fees I am in hopes to Git out of this
place as I have no frind on Earth as I no of only
M^r Snickers Coll Bird has Sent me a Seritificat by
Capt price for my Being a ofiser in the Rigement if
you think I am intileled to Dockter Johnstons Claim
as Exeter ples to Leve a sertificat with M^r Snickers
for that and he has promised to Send it to me as
when I Git those two worntes² it may inable me to
pay my Detes and Git Sumthing to hide my nackid-
ness your faver in those Requestes will for Ever
oblige me to pray for you re ~~Goodness~~ wellfare and
may God Reword you for the Same all from youre
most obedent

Humble Sarvnt

WILLIAM HUGHES

¹ gaol.

² warrants.

NB M^r Snickers advises
 me to Goe to the Governer
 my Self for the worntes
 if I Can Git out or to
 Git you to Git them for me for God Sake Let me no
 what you think Best

I am yours W H

FROM MR. WILLIAM MCGACHEN.¹

BALTIMORE March 13th 1774

DEAR SIR

I received your very agreeable favour by M^r Crawford I have done my self the pleasure to give him every assistance in my power and has purchased for you Four men convicts four Indented servants for three years and a man & his wife for four years the price Is I think rather high but as they are country likely people and you at present wanted them M^r Crawford said he imagined you would be well satisfied with our Bargain I have agreed to pay £110 Sterling for them the first of next may which I hope you will be pleased with should you want any more there is a ship expected this month with country convicts I suppose six months credit may [be] got for a parcel of them on the same terms I have bought the parcel now sent you as they are at present scarce and in demand I shall always take pleasure in doing every thing in my power to serve you here I am respectfully

Dear sir Your most Obd^t Hum Serv^t

WILL MCGACHEN

¹ This name in vol. iii. is erroneously given as William M. Gachen.

FROM MR. HENRY RIDDELL.

PISCATAWAY 18th March 1774

SIR

I return you M^r Ross's Letter, and will think no further of importing Germans,¹ the difficulty attending it being so great.

I am with Esteem

Sir

Your most hble Serv^t

HENRY RIDDELL

¹ FROM JOHN ROSS TO ROBERT ADAMS.PHILADELPHIA 1st March 1774

SIR

I have before me your favour of 18th ~~Oct~~ come only to my hand by this post, and in Answer, have to inform you, that the expenses attending the Importation of German Passengers have been so great of late years, that it is not by any Means an object of attention to have any concern in that Trade. — I have had no connection in that way these three or four years, and those who have embarked pretty much therein, have got so heart sick of their concern in that way, that they have now totally declined it. Rotterdam is the place where the Germans are shipped from, but the charges attending each before you can Secure them & get them on Board, Prove at times so considerable, that those who have not been concerned, can Scarsely credit it. — The Germans cannot easily be prevailed on to embark to any part of America, but that of Pennsylvania, Most of those that leave the Count[r]y have many connections in this Province, and no condition can Possibly reconcile the generality of them, to embark for any of the other Provinces. — Flour is entyrelly Prohibited in Holland, nor can I think of any thing that might Answer from this Country to be sent thither.

When Logwood paid a Freight, the Shipping employed in that Trade, took in frequently a Cargo of Wood at the Bay with Which they proceeded in the Winter or early in the Spring for Rottd^m — But that Business being quite overdone, Most of the Vessells goes from England or some Ports in Europe in Ballast, and Credit on London to take their Reimbursement for the Charges of the Vessells outfitts &c^s — Such a Vessell as May have about two hundred Freights, will probably require from a thousand to £1500 Ster^s outfitts, possibly more as it depends on the debts the People may contract in getting down from Germany to Holland.

I could not undertake the delivery of any Number of Germans with you, knowing the difficulty of getting them to agree to their going to any other Province Except that of Pennsylv^a where they have hopes of meeting their Relations, or old Acquaintances. — Some Family might possibly be engaged after [covered by seal] to this place but as they have their own terms to make respecting the time they serve to redeem them, it is no easy matter to treat with them. — A Native of Germany that resided in your

FROM DOCTOR HUGH MERCER.

DEAR SIR,

Ever since I understood that the Land whereon
 M^r Washington lived^{joining Mr Hunters} was for Sale I have had an
 Inclination to purchase it, but till now was not in
 circumstances to propose the matter to you — I have
 heard that the Tract contains about 600 Acres and
 that it is held at £3 ^{per} Acre — If these are your low-
 est terms, I would not dispute them, were my terms
 of Payment agreeable to you — that is one third of
 the purchase Money to be paid in a Twelvemonth
 after the Sale & the Same Sum yearly afterwards till
 the Whole is discharged — Interest to commence
 from the Sale —

I should be glad to have a line from you on this
 Subject and am with great Esteem

Dear Sir

FRED^d 21 March }
 1774 }

Your most obed^t S^t

HUGH MERCER

FROM MR. JOHN DAVID WOELPPER.¹PHILADELPHIA March 23^d 1774:

HONNOURED SIR!

When I Return, Last from Williams Burg, I was
 Favourt with your Letter, Dated feby 7th I most

Country, & coud describe such Advantages as they might have by going thither, might
 help to Influence them,

Excuse hurry — In the Meantime believe me to be with Respect

Sir

Your very humble Serv^tJn^d Ross

¹ Familiarly known in the Virginia regiment during the French and Indian war,

Humble pegg your parton, In not, observing my Duty, upon your favour, Rec^d Dated, the 1 of Nov, 1773: I was In expectaision to have the Honnour, to [have] waited upon you, In a littel Time, affter I Rec^d it, but I was prevented by the wather, —

My Tract of Land, which I have by, Governors Dunwoodie, proclamaision, I Sold it, Last when I come up from W^{ms} Burg, I am greatly oblige to you, for your addveice, —

If your Honnour Choose to buy my Claim, of the 2000 acers, for which I got my warrant, in the kings proclamaision, 1763. you are will come to it, If you can get the warrant altherd, to a Nother County, where you pleas,

Sir, as you have Some Intainsion, to Impord Some of my Country man, To Sattlen your Land, and to Resolve your Quistion, which you has macke, to your Servant, To which I will give you, my Humble answer, to the best of my knowledge, and Informaision, by the oldish² pallataions Importer Samuel Howel, as for The

1. It is Some Times, a great Deficultay to get them, In Holland, or Garmany, On acco^t of the Interpreters /: or what the Coalled Newlanders: / when these go up to Garmany, Some Tack up Some Monye, by the Marchant Inholland, and Some not, when they come back to holland, The March^t there, offert them Some monye, who give most to him, will

throughout which he served, as Sergeant David Wilper. He attained a higher rank during the Revolution, however, for Washington (recommending him for promotion) refers to him as a first lieutenant, and on July 17, 1776, he was appointed by Congress Captain of a "company to be added to the German battalion."

¹ Oldest.

git all the peopell which come with him, The[y] Never get Less then a Garman Ducat, which is this, currency 14 Shilling, Some Times 20 Shilling —

2 They are not, to be had at all Times, but in the month of May, June July and Augst, So when this Newlanders, Ingage, Some Fameles, in Garmany, they acquint, the Marchⁱ in Holland, who [how] many. Freight they have, upon this, they get the Ship Reathy,¹ it must, be one Engelish vessell, no Hollandish Dares come haire, or bring annye palla-tains In, they Sent for this vessells to Engeland, —

3. How they are precourret,⁴ in holland, I main-tion it, In the, first articular and upon Therre arrival, in holland They muss be Shipped and provision Found, Till they are all togather, that the Ship can be Loadet, In 2 or 3 days, NB: If the Ship is pro-voidet, to Rec^d them on Boart, and with provision, Then they do Seat of, —

4. upon what Terms, they are Generaly expected, and how mosh a head will Stand, is to the first, viz.

1. Ducat to the Newlander
- 2 The Rhine Freight
3. the provision
4. the passage over Seas

5. a Littel, which they Called head mon[e]y in holland which may Stand, between 12 or 13[℥] vir-ginia Currency, a Freight, a Freight, Is a man, or a women, and one that is 14 yarrs old, and under 14 yarrs to 4 yarrs, one is a half a Freight, and under 4 yarrs, they are free, but this get no Bet Stall nur pro- vision, This is the whold Expences, except a Littel for Medicain, —

¹ ready.

² procured.

5. It is not Coustommary, to Sent Some Body, to Garmany, to bring them Down to holland /: which I maintion in my first articular: / as These Newlanders, macke a Sort of Trad[e] of it, M^r Howel Saiys it will be batter, to Sent Some Body, with good, Commission, and an agrayment, up to Garmany, That they may Signe the agrayment, Then they Cannot, be persaudet away from him, by another Newlander, or march^t in Holland, and they will be Chipper¹ then to get them in holl^d, wherras the Newlanders can^t bring them on to Spent, and advence them monye, with which they Charge them without Their knowledge, which mackes the Freight So high to 25. 30. 36[℥] which will be prevented, —

6. A Vessell may go Immediately to Holland, with its Load, paying the Duty in Engeland, Let them have, Tobacco, Tarre, pitch, this articuals are the best marcket In Ambster Dam, or Rother Dam and will never fail, —

7. I maintiond in the 6th articual what marcket will Suit best, As for the whole Cargo Garmans may Cost, M^r Howel, which Imported this 30 yarrs, Saiys it will amount To 15 or 1800[℥] Sterling 300 Freight In a vessell, which Cary 2000 or 2500 Barrel of Flower, NB: No body can give annye acco^t by the Famelis, becauss, Some are Strong in Numbers with 2. 3. 4. Sons, and it may be, So mainy Dachters, Some in Numbers 4 or 5 in all, and Some no morre. but 2 or 3. in a Famely, —

8. They are Logged in Bed Stals, macke of boards,

¹ cheaper.

6-feet Long and 2 feet waith, This Bed Stals, are so Regulatted, acorting, to the vessel, Some Bed Stals are made for 2. 3. 4. 5. 6 Freight, to hold, and Lay in it, and To keep Theries Necessary¹ by them, The other paggach,² muss be but Down, in the hold, —

I went to Some Frind, bud Non Could give me better advice, then, what I know, and M^r Howel Toll me, I most Humble aquint, you with, all particulars, who this Famelis can be had, and Imported, M^r Howel, atweeisses, and Tincks,³ it will be best for a man, gos up to Garmany, he will bring them Chipper⁴ and So maing as him pleases, as they Generally are Imported, as I maintiond in the 5th articular, with good powers of adorny,⁵ and on agrayment, how you will hold them upon the Land, —

Hon^d Sir, you was pleass^d to ask me, If I would Inclaine to go, to Holland/: It is True, I macke a Sort of a promiss, to not to go to Sea again, If your Hon^r Shall Intrusst me with, I will act that, you Shall have no Reason to Complain against me, If God Spare my Leife and health, —

As for Terms, I will Liffe it to your Hon^r Self; you know worry wel when a man Travels, he can^t Save as when he is at hom, a man must be all most a yarr⁶ to go from Till his Return, I shall keep good hause, as it Lais in my power, you know worry well, that I am no Drincker or Spent Extranody,

That this peopell, will come over, upon better Terms, and morre the better, as half So moch, as they Commonly Stand, a Freight will not Stand, So

¹ their necessities.

² baggage.

³ advises and thinks.

⁴ cheaper.

⁵ attorney.

⁶ year.

hight, to bring them Down, upon the Land, on Ohio, as they Stand, when they come to Philad^e —

That they may Looock upon them Self, as your Property, Is no morre, but Just, Till they Reimburse your monye again, affter, this to get a Leais, for one or morre 100 acers, to pay Rent, and affter the Times is expaiert,¹ to Renew it again — That you expect, that they would be Jointly bound, togather for their proformens, It will be Just. —

When I shall have the Hon^r to waited upon you, I would proposse to you, which will be I believe farr better, to your Indress, That is to Saiy — Some freight will be, that come over from Holl^d or Garmany, will be Singel men, or women, Those can be Dissposs^d of, and Rathy² Cash Rec^d for them, this Cash Can be aploy^d for expences, to Transport, their Famelis Down to your Land, —

Sir, as I have answerd to your Disseuer,³ I will proposse Some Thing to you, If you, Tack it, in your Consiteraision, I belive, it would be best, and not half So moch expences, as to Import Some Gar-mans, —

That is to Saiy, To Draw an agrayment how you want to Settlen your Land, and to get it printed, and a man, go from Court to Court house, in Court Times, That you promiss to Tack them up, in a Ser-tain place, on the Roath⁴ to bring them to Pitts Burg, and to provoid for them Therre to Tack them Down by wather, as farr as the Connoss,⁵ can go up and Down, and find them/: Till they macke a Crop:/ with

¹ expired.

² ready.

³ desire.

⁴ road.

⁵ canoes.

provisions as you Thinck proper, as to Reimburssment, the Saime, as by the Garmans. —

Sir, I, belive, you will get as mainy as you pleass This Famelis will know allratty, how to worck in this parts, In particular, If you provoid Some Stock for those which are going, for 3 yarrs, and then to Devoid the Stock, by this mains you will get your monye, Sooner, as by the former when you get your Chair of Cattels,¹ There will be Enough again to buy your Cattels, and when they have Some Steers, you Tack them, on you for your payment, or on your Debt, — If it Cost you So mainy pounds, as to bring in Garmans, with Expences, and to buy Cattels, and Expences to Pitts Burg, and If one accident Shall happnet by them, that a men Died — There will be constand a nother that will Tack the widow, By the others if a father Died and a passall of Smal Children be Lefft, what will you Do with them —

Hon^d Sir, If you Shall Choose the first, It will ^{be} best to Imploy a vessell heire, and Load it, with Tobacco, In failling of Tobacco, Sent it to Carrolina, to get Reice, Tarre, and pitch, which will Save, agreatyle² expences, and therre muss be made out, Some agent in Holland, in good Times, to procurr good and Sound provision, and all Necessarys, and in Need Some monye, I Supposs your Hon^r has a Corresponds in Engeland, If not M^r Howel, herr will:/ I belive:/ macke out one for you in Holland, The vessell muss be Rathy, finish when they peopel, come

¹ share of cattle.

² a great deal.

Down the River Rhine, to Tack them In, which will
Save, agreatilly expences —

Honnourd Sir I am your Most Humble, and
Most Obet:

Serv^t

D: WOELPPER.

FROM FRANCIS BAKER.

QUEEN ANNS COUNTY March 26 1774

SIR) Inclosed you Have M^r potters Ret^t for Seven
pounds paid for — the Schooling and Bording S^t
Larence Posey¹ — which Money has actualy [mutilated]
paid By me, for the Receving of which I have no
other Expecktation. than from you — Should you Be
Kind enough & pay please Lodge It in the Hands
of Messes Daniel Son and Wallace — which will

Greatly oblidge Sir your

Vy Humb^l S^t

FR^s BAKER

¹ Red of M^r Francis Baker this 15th May 1773
the Sum of 7 Pounds for Board & School of
S^t Lawrence Posey from Nov^r 25th 1771 to
April 7th 1772 — P^r me

JO^s POTTER

March 26th 1774 I hereby cetify that Joseph Potter is
Master of the Free school of Queen Anns County in the
province of Maryland by the Admission of the Visitors
of 3^d School —

JA^s EARLE Register

An entry in Washington's *Account Book* dated November 5, 1774, shows that he
continued to keep Lawrence Posey at school.

By Cash p ^d Jn ^s Price Posey	}	13. 12. 0
on acc ^t of his Fathers ord ^r		
for Board & Schooling of		
Lawrence Posey £17. Pens		

FROM MR. GEORGE FOWLER.¹

CAMER [mutilated] April 1774 —

SIR.

I am doubtful you blame the Conduct of the Sheriff and myself for taking M^r Crawford in your house you may be assured very sincerely that I had been informd he intended out on Monday morning and having been well informd that he had once escaped did not know but he might attempt it again and certain it is I suspended the Action untill the last hour. when I left home I heard he was at Johnsons Ferry where I expected he woud be servd with the Process and had no thought of going as far as we did when we Set out, but as I had been so repeatedly disappointed and deceived both by Letters and promeses and a [mutilated] uch blamed for Extending a Credit of that dignity to that Gentleman, that I thought it was my duty & the Sheriffs to Act as we did, and more particularly a Company of Merchants failing in London we were immediately call[ed], on for a larger Sum than we coud possibly raise on a sudden, especially when frequently meeting Such disappointments ourselves which reasons I hope will convince you that it was more through necessity that I was induced to act as I did than out of any pleasure I coud take in such an Action and of our necessity I first made M^r Crawford privately Acquainted hoping it might bring him more seriously to con-

¹ The progenitor of the Fowler family in Virginia was Francis Fowler, who in 1635 patented nine hundred acres in James City County, "against Jowing poynt," near the Chickahominy River. Francis Fowler was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1642.

sider — I really had been informd and I think from some of his Friends that he woud escape if in his power a Sufficient reason for the Sheriff to Act with Caution, I did intend to pay the Cost myself as I then told the Sheriff in case it was Settled I am really extremely sorry that I had in any case disoblged and humbly hope these reasons will render us something more excusable & am yo^r mo^t Obed^t Hble Serv^t

GEO: FOWLER.

FROM BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR/

M^r Black has at last consented to execute the Deed to you which is done & now in my possession. Col. Pendleton & M^r Lyons have also acknowledged a Deed in King W^m Court to confirm your title to Romoncock, & M^r Lyons & M^r Power have acknowledged a Deed as Atto^s of Seton for the Mill & 100 Acres of Land, there seems to be nothing wanting now to compleat your title but a Deed from Col. T. Moore for 100 Acres of land adjoining the Mill which was never conveyed to Seton, this I expect shortly to have, I understand Black gave up possession of every Thing & only stayed in the House 'til he could remove which I suppose he has done by this time, he also agreed to account for the Toll of the Mill but had not fully done it when I last heard from him, If I hear nothing from you I shall send the Deed & all the other Papers to M^r Wythe by the first of the General Court that they may be ready for

Black's acknowledgm^t whenever he comes down, and if he will not acknowledge it in Court I suppose three of the Witnesses must go down & prove it, I could get but four to the execution of it & M^r Moore neglected to get more afterwards, —

I expect the pleasure of seeing yourself & Family within a Month and shall now only add that my Wife joins me in Love to my Sister, M^r Custis & his Lady and that I am sincerely

D^r Sir Your very affect. ~~hble~~ Serv^t

NEW KENT
April 2. 1774.

B DANDRIDGE

FROM DOCTOR HUGH MERCER.

FREDG 6th Apl 1774

DEAR SIR,

Your favour of 28th March relating to the land adjoining M^r Hunters I should have acknowledg'd last Week but had hopes of seeing you here at the Race — The Terms of Two Thousand Pounds will suit me at five Annual payments — I expect to discharge the Debt sooner, but as you are willing to let the money remain in my hands on Interest — will accept of that Indulgence — Be so good to inform me when I may be put in possession or when it will suit you to make the Conveyance —

I am very respectfully D^r Sir

Your most obedt St

HUGH MERCER

FROM SAMUEL ATHAWES, ESQ.

LONDON 8th April 1774

DEAR SIR

Our Mutual Friend the Hon^{ble} Geo. Will^m Fairfax Esq^r having communicated to me that since his Return to England¹ a Person has offered to purchase the Blomary which he has in conjunction with M^r Carlisle Dalton &c. tho not the whole of the land belonging to it & he being desirous of not only parting with it but of putting an End to that Matter entirely has executed a Power of Attorney to this purpose & which Power of Attorney accompanys this to you — The Reason of my troubling you on this Occasion is my ^{having} long had an Inclination to a small Tract on Shenandoe & finding by my Fr^d possibly a Gentleman in the Neighbourhood of the Blomary may sell a little Matter which he has there I should wish to know if that is the Case what are is Terms & whether you think them eligible if you should our Mutual Friend seems to think that the land which belongs to the Blomary & which the purchaser of it does not mean to take & which as you will find by the Power our Friend wishes to have divided into four parts of equal Value in order to put an End to the partnership Acc^t & as this Tract lays contiguous to that which may possibly be sold — He has intimated to me his entire inclination & wish that his Fourth part or proportion might adjoin to that which I am disposed to purchase as our Friend if I was to become

¹ George William Fairfax went to England in 1773 and never returned to America.

a purchaser would let me have that which would make the purchase compact & more compleat — our Friend has wrote to you & pointed out the Estate above hinted, & if you would make the Enquiry you would oblige me very particularly tho I could wish the Enquiry not to be made in my Name I know not how or in what Manner I shall be able to return the Civility but if I should have it in my Power I trust you would not find me Ungrateful.

I am with Esteem

Dear Sir

Your oblig^d & Ob^t Serv^t

SAM^l ATHAWES.

(Copy.)

FROM JAMES TILGHMAN, JR., ESQ.¹

PHILADELPHIA 7th April 1774

DEAR SIR

The Reason of my not giving a speedier Answer to yours of the 17th February,² was owing to my being

¹ Born at "The Hermitage," on Chester River, Maryland, December 6, 1716. Mr. Tilghman began the practice of law in Annapolis, but in 1760 moved to Philadelphia. In 1765, he accepted the position of secretary of the Land Office of Pennsylvania. During the Revolution he was arrested as a loyalist, but was released on parole. Later the parole was removed, and he died at his home in Chestertown, Md., August 29, 1793. He was the brother of Matthew Tilghman, and father of William and Tench Tilghman.

² The draft of this letter is bound with the manuscript letters to Washington.

D^r SIR

I am going to give you a little trouble because I am persuaded you will excuse it. — No good reason you'll say, but the best I can offer for such ^a liberty. — Interested, as well as political Motives, render it necessary for me to seat the Lands which I have Patented on the Ohio in the Cheapest, most expeditious, & effectual manner; many expedients have been proposed to accomplish this, & none in my judgement, so likely as by Importing of Palatines: but how to do this, upon the best terms, is a question I wish to be resolved in. — Few of these kind of People ever come to Virginia; whether

out of Town when it arrived. I have had some Conversation upon the Subject of it with some of the Gentlemen in the Palatine Trade, and shall think myself fortunate, if any Information that I can give, may be of the least Service to You in the Affair. I have talked about it particularly with Mr Robert Morris, whose Judgment in a Matter of this Nature I would rely upon sooner than that of any Man I know. His Opinion is against your sending out a Ship for Palatines for the following Reasons, which to me, appear good.

because it is out of the common course of its Trade, or because they ^{ships} ~~people~~ themselves ^{are unable to determine} ~~take~~ object to it I ~~know not~~ I shall ^{take} it very kind of you, therefore to ~~let me know~~ resolve the following questions, which I am persuaded you can do with precision, by enquiring of ~~these~~ such Gentlemen as have been engaged in this business;—

Whether there is any difficulty in getting them in Holland?—^{& from whence does this it} ~~What the difficulty~~ proceeds from?—Whether they are to be had at ~~one season of the year, rather than~~ ^{all times or at particular seasons only, & when} another & what season?—Whether they are engag'd previous to the [illegible word erased] ship sending for them, & in what manner?—or do ships take their Chance? Upon what terms are they generally engaged there?—and how much? Poll do they ^{commonly} stand the Importer, Landed at Phila? Is it Customary to send an Intelligent German in the ship that is to bring these Palatines?—Does Vessells ever go immediately to Holland for them, and if they do, what Cargo's [do they] carry? or, are they, to go round, & what round,—In short, what ~~what~~ Plan would be recommended ^{to me} by the knowing ones, ~~to me~~ ^{as best} to Import a ship full freight, say two or three hundred, or more, to Alexandria?—in case ~~when~~ ^{after getting there} of a full freight how are the numbers generally proportion'd to the Tonnage of a Vessel?—

Your favour in having these sev^l Queries answer'd, with any other Information which you may think necessary for me to be inform'd [of] I shall ^{gratefully} receive ~~as~~ as I am totally unacquainted with every thing of the kind.—

The hard & continued Frost ^{since ye m of J [month of January]} has confin'd every body to their own homes, so that I have nothing new to entertain you with. — Wheat in Alex^a has been in brisk demand all the year & kept almost invariably at 57 ³/₄ Bush! — Flour has also met with a pretty ready Sale at ~~22~~ ²²/₆ at 127. — Jack Custis could not be content till he had got a Yoke fellow in Miss Nelly Calvert to whom he was Married, the 3^d Ins^l. I hope tho you have remov'd ^{this part of the world} ~~from us~~ you do not mean to forsake us altogether and that it is unnecessary to add, that I shall at all times be happy in seeing of you at this place. — My best respects attend your good Father, Sisters & Brother's, & with very sincere regard I remain Dr Sir Y^r.

VOL. IV.

The Expence of chartering a Ship, and the Money that must be advanced in the purchase of the Servants /for We are not allowed to send any Thing from hence to Holland /would be exceeding high, and the Loss to which the Importer is subject by their dying is often very great and always considerable; their being crowded together a great Number of them in a Ship makes contagious Disorders frequent amongst them, which often carry off great Numbers of them, especially if they happen to have a tedious passage. But granting no Accident of this Sort should happen, M^r Morris is of Opinion that you may purchase them in Philadelphia upon much better Terms than you can import them. The Reason of it is this; the People here generally prefer the Children to the Men and Women, so that the latter are commonly left upon the Importers Hands after the former are all sold, and as the Expence of maintaining them is very heavy, they are willing to get rid of them upon any Terms. M^r Morris told Me that the last Fall he would have sold thirty or forty Families such as you want for one half what they cost him. Another Advantage in purchasing here, is that you may get 12 or 18 Month's Credit for the Payment of them. M^r Morris thinks the Trade so troublesome and precarious, that he has declined it but was kind enough to tell Me that ^{he} would gladly give his Advice and Assistance in procuring them upon the easiest Terms, which I know will be very much in his Power, should ^{you} conclude to purchase here; or should you determine rather to import them

yourself, he will in that Case, supply you with necessary and full Directions on that Head.

I have passed but a gloomy Winter in Philadelphia; my Disorder was more deeply rooted than I at first imagined. I am now tolerably well recovered; the sweet Spring seems to have brought Me a fresh Supply of Hea[l]th & Spirits, and I hope shortly to be once more Myself. My Happiness is still encreased by the agreeable Prospect that I have of shortly seeing all my Friends in Virginia, I shall leave Philadelphia in a Week, and in one Week more hope to pay a Visit to Mount Vernon. be good^{enough} to present my best Comp^t to M^r Washington, M^r & M^r Custis, & M^r L. Washington, and believe Me

Most Respectfully & Sincerely

Y^r

JAMES TILGHMAN JUN^r

FROM ROBERT CARTER NICHOLAS.

WILLIAMSBURG 9th April 1774.

DEAR SIR.

I unluckily happen'd to be from Home, when your Favour arrived, so that I could not answer it by the last Post. It is not in my Power to give you an exact Account of what the Duties on Liquors ought to yield, as the Naval Officers all complain of the Tardiness of many Importers, & the Sums paid into the Treasury for the last two years consist partly of old Arrears. The whole Sum received for the four last half yearly Payments I find amounts to £13,540 „

16 „ 3; the Receipts of each half year are by no Means equal, but the Average may be reckon'd at £6 or £7000 nearly ~~per~~ Annum. Of the above Sum the officer on Potowmack paid only £539. 6. 10 in the two years; this Gentleman has repeatedly complain'd of the Difficulties he meets with in collecting the Duties, which are *actually* bonded & I have as often desired him to put the Bonds in Suit, without Respect of Persons. I am well satisfied, from frequent Representations, of the Disadvantages the Virg^a Merchants on this River must labour under from their peculiar Situation; tho, at the same time, I should suppose that these Inconveniencies might, in a great Measure, be avoided by a vigorous Exertion of the Powers of Magistracy. It would give me much Pleasure to contribute towards the Relief of our Trade in every Instance; but the Duties on Liquors afford the principal Part of the Revenue appropriated for discharging the current Expences of the Country; this Duty is complain'd of by the Importers in general, & I am persuaded that great Frauds are committed in almost every Quarter; how the Legislature can allow an Exemption to one part of the Community, without giving too great Umbrage to all others, I do not know; however, if it can be done, consistent with good Policy & the general Interest, I am sure that I shall have no Objection to it. The Extent & Business of the Country encreases so rapidly that it will be found that all the Money paid into the Treasury will not be sufficient to support it's Credit; so that I am apprehensive we shall be obliged to look out for new Subjects.

You once mention'd M^r Ramsay's Proposal to pay his Bal^{ce} of Taxes thro' your Hands; if you could contrive to have this done, without Inconvenience to yourself, I should esteem it a favour; I have wrote repeatedly to him & M^r Adam his Security, but to little Purpose, & fear I shall be obliged to issue an Exon at last; this I would avoid for many Reasons; a principal one is that I find as great Difficulties in getting Money out of most Sherif's Hands, as from the original Debtors. Several of the Inspectors of your County are greatly in Arrear; Col^o West has a List of them & I should esteem it a singular Fav^r in you both, if you would be pleased to represent to them how absolutely necessary it is to have their Acc^{ts} all closed & the Balances fully paid up.

I observe, from the Paper, that M^r Custis is made happy in the Lady of his Choice & do most cordially felicitate you all on the Occasion. I am, D^r Sir, with much Esteem

Y^r mo. ob^t Serv^t

Ro. C. NICHOLAS

FROM THOMAS NEWTON, JR.

NORFOLK April 19 1774

SIR

I Received yours covering an invoice for 60 Barrels four [of] which is sold at 16/8 & freight payable at the Octb^r meeting next. at present there is a prospect of flour's being in demand & believe you may venture to send one or two hundred barrels unless you can sell at nearly the same price as above

at Alexandria for our market is but uncertain at best, as one week there is a demand & the next we are full from the differant rivers. I have been offer'd for the Brig Ann & Eliz^a three hundred pounds payable in Octb^r next which if youre inclinable to take you may send her down imediatly, tho I wou'd advise to take a trial at publick sale here, as the charge of that is only one pistole & she may sell for more as every one that wants will have an oppertunity of bidding for her & we alway's find that it is the best way to dispose off a vessell ~~here~~ as many wants that are not known in ^aprivate way. Shou'd it suit you to give Credit untill this time twelve months you will get double interest for your money as I am very certain She would sell for ten ~~⌘~~ C^t at least more that for ready money.

Herrings will not sell here at more than fifteen shillings a barrel & a slow market at that price.

fine flour from fourteen to fifteen but you'll please to note that the freight will [be] taken out of these prices which reduces it Seven pence ~~⌘~~ hund^t tho if you should send the brig down you'l save that freight as you may ballast her with those articles together with the superfine flour. I do not think it worth your while to take a West India freight as believe this vessell wou'd not sell in any of the Islands as she is not calculated for their purposes, I have one of the same built (for a Guineaman) that has been ordered for sale at least a dozen voyages but cou'd never dispose [of] her & the freight of so small a

vessell seldom answers as the Port charges are very high. I know of no better market than this at present for disposing of her as vessells are now in great demand, & shou'd you incline to send her down you'l please to forward as fast as possible that she may get here before our Assembly meets. I am

Y^r Most Hbl^e Serv^t

THOMAS NEWTON J^r

FROM MR. WILLIAM BLACK.

URBANNA April 25th 1774—

SIR

Having an oppty: from here of a Young Gentleman going to Dumfries, I have just step'd aside to write you this. I wrote you some time agoe which was intended up by my Son, but he was taken on the road with the Measles, which prevented him and sent the Letter by a Chance oppty: to you, and as I am doubtfull it may have miscarried, I shall here give you the heads. How soon your Letter came to me which was a long while after date, every thing was Comply'd with immediately, I only wanted your promise they shoud be delivered up, there was only one which was material to me, That from the Trustees to you & this I have not yet got, however when demanded I doubt not but M^r Wythe will deliver it to the speaker. The principal Occasion of this as well as my former, in which I was much more part^r, is thus. Very contrary to my expectation, M^r Black was extremely unwilling to leave the place, &

this alone was, I really believe, the only Reason of her unwillingness to Acknowledge her Dower and not any expectation of any present, which on Shewing her your Letter, she was much disturb'd, and declar'd she never had the most distant Expectation of any Such thing, nor woud she have Rec^d any such had it been offered. but She had contracted a Sett of Acquaintance which she lik'd and cou'd not think of moving to a place, where this was to be again Cultivated; I said all I cou'd to make her easy and expected when She once went over to the Falls it might have been so, but I find it otherwise & her unhappiness makes me very much so. This Sir was the Occasion and Subject of my former Letter, & now of this. I have heard M^r Custis nor his Lady has very little Inclination of coming to live here, or if they doe it will be some very considerable time hence, in which most the houses will be in Ruins, & from the nature of the materials they are in general built of are now hasting fast that way — and many say the place is so cutt off from the bulk of his other Estates that it will be very inconvenient & from the poorness of the Land, the Muskettas &c. her nor his Lady will ever like 'it — These Circumstances together with M^r Blacks very uneasy Situation has induc'd an Application, That if you wou'd incline to Relinquish this part of the Bargain at the price it went for, 2500⁶, You shou'd have your money Reimburs'd, the Negroes now on the place might work on your Acco^t this Crop, or I wou'd allow 10£ for the fellows & 7£ for the Wenches for the year, which

either way you may chuse, and Shou'd you be of opinion, I might in time part with it for more, I am willing to Engage wth Sattisfactory Security, that if ever I part with it in my life, I shall be lyable to any damages which may be laid in the penalty. Believe me sir — My Sole and only Motive is what I have already mentioned, and I wou'd doe any thing to make M^r Black again happy, & coud I have thought the contrary I wou'd never have carried into Execution what I did, but when I advertis'd, I firmly intended for Scotland, & her appear^e when come to the push, averse to that Measure, was the only Reason made me think of the Falls, and that I did not doe till I was in Williamsburg & on treaty with you. Tho I expect you will soon be in Town, yet I wrote this, in hopes it or my former may reach you, before you leave home, That you, as I presume y^e woud, Consult M^r Custis &c. and as you come down the Country, 'tis probable you may call to see the place and then will be a better Judge of matters, the state of the Out houses &c. &c. We have every winter for most of the time near 2 feet Water in the Cellars, wth was surprizing at first to me, it being so high above the River The Custom of the Mill much decreas'd from one or two newly Rebuilt & new Canals cutt to give them more water, & many left her, as I am informd, from your Miller not being Acquainted with a Geer Mill However I need not mention part^r to one of Colo: Washingtons discernment and only shall add, that if it may be consistant with the Situation in which he Acts &c. to grant my Request, I shall look on it as his being the Means of

giving Content to M^r Black & Consequently the
Greatest Sattisfaction to

Sir Your most Obed^t & very hble servant

WILLIAM BLACK

I have postpon'd driving all my Stock till I can
know the Result of my Application — M^r Black has
been at the falls near a month, but still the same as
when She left K. & Q: I came from there a few
days agoe

It is the general opinion that the K. W^m Lands
at their price is by much the best Bargain, and now
M^r Dandridge woud sell, & some say he must, a body
of near 3000 Acres & a very fine new brick house,
which Joins your Mill & M^r Jn^o West, it is said,
wants to sell all his West point Tract & to settle
lands in Fredrick where he wants to settle in lieu
thereof W. B.

FROM MR. VALENTINE CRAWFORD.^{1 2}

DEAR SIR)

JACOBS CREKE April 27th 1774

Sence I wrote you My Brother Come Home and
is Swore in to his Comitian and wase verely frendly
treated att Stantown it wase out of his power to Send
your plats to you acording [to] your desire — —

I went to gilbert Simsons as Soon as I got out
and gave him the bill of Scantlin you gave Me and

¹ Brother of Colonel William Crawford. Valentine Crawford was employed by Washington for many years as manager of his Ohio lands.

² Indorsed by Washington: "Inclosing one dated 19th Apl. 1774 giving an Acc^t of his Movement of my People & Stores over the Mount^s."

the bill of his articles I offered him all the Sarvents
 to take them to your Bottem to worke But he Re-
 fused for fair they would Run away from him as we
 had our Canews to build I Could Not Spare the Car-
 penters as I am Endeverting to get Redy to start as
 Soon as posble I Can but it apears to be the Most
 trouble besness I Ever under tuck in My Life but I
 Shall Endeaver to goe through it with all Reselution I
 posably^{can} I would faign hope to give you Satisfaction
 But I am afraid it is out of My power

I Shell wright you verey fall in My Next before I
 Start and I am Dear Sir your Most faithfull frend
 and Most Hble Servent

VALE: CRAWFORD

NB. I hope I Shall be able
 to Start in four or five days V C

FROM DOCTOR JOHN CONNOLLY.

PITTSBURGH May 1st 1774

DEAR SIR

I just snatch this minute by Major M^cDonald to
 acqu [mutilated] You, that we are all in infinite confu-
 sion at this place, owing to [mutilated] tilities now actu-
 ally begun, & subsisting between us, & the Indians;
 [mutilated] Amount of which I have in a brief manner
 mentioned to His Exce [mutilated] Lord Dunmore —
 I have this day sent Expresses into the different
 parts of the Country, to collect the Militia, & to imp
 [mutilated] all Tools & instruments necessary towards

making this place defe [mutilated] against the Enemy; & at the same time have despatched pressing [mutilated] down the River to order our People to desist from farther host [mutilated] with a View to bring about an amicable Reconciliation, tho really am apprehensive, the attempt will be unsuccessfull

I flatter myself that upon this occasion not [mutilated] ing our Government disputes, that we will be unai-
mous in oppo [mutilated] common Enemy: & therefore
hope we will not stand in need of [mutilated] Assistanc
below: at any rate, I expect we will be enabl [mutilated]
stand our ground, long enough at least, to acquaint
you wit [mutilated] inabilities to Resist alone, & to
pray Assistance from your Qu [mutilated]

Excuse (D^r Sir) the inaccuracies of this Let [mutilated]
this multiplicity of perplexing Circumstances which
now engages [mutilated] attention, flowing from the
Source mentioned, prevent me from [mutilated] as copi-
ous, on the Subject as I could wish; & therefore
p [mutilated] me to subscribe myself

Your Friend & obed^t Serv^t

JOHN CONNELLY

FROM MR. GILBERT SIMPSON.

May: ye: 4: 1774

S^R This Coms To Let you know That the Cuntry is
at This Time in Great Confusion By Means of The
indians deClairing War against us¹ and i suppose

¹ The red race and the white were now coming into close quarters. The tide of emi-
gration had broken through the barrier the Alleghanies opposed to it, and threatened

There has Brook up and Gon off at Leest Five hundred Familys Within one Weak past But i determain To Stand To the Last or Loos My Lif With What i have : There has Ben Two or Three Scrimages With White people and indians There has Been Nineteen indians killd and one White Man kild and Thre Wounded all Between The Mingo Town and pitsburg and i do beleive it has been The White peoples Fault altogether i intend With The Conclusion of The Neibours Next Weak To Build a Foort Wheare i Live it Being Concluded a Convenient plais and i May as Well Be Ruend one Way as the other For To Flie i Must Loos Great part of What Little i have so i deClare To Stand as Long as i Can See The Lest hoops and Goo on With your Mill S^r i hope it May be in your power To Send or Contrive Sum help of Men after a While To help The Cuntry My Regard To The plase has Causd me To ~~by~~ By a Vise Rifel Gun yesterday and i Must buy More Guns if i Can Get them So No More

But Remain your to Command —

GILB^t. SIMPSON

YOUGH A GAHAHALAY

NB: M^r Vaul Craford Came To Me and oferd To Send Me Sum of your Carpenders With in Two or Three days after i Got home But i Was Not in order To ~~Them~~ Take them But am ^{now} and the Mill Wright is Now heare and if i Can Goo on in Saifty i Shall Strive for the Mill Which is begun

to inundate the valley of the Ohio, which had been for centuries the Indian stronghold. About the middle of April, 1774, the skirmishes between them began to assume that serious aspect which rapidly developed into "Dunmore's War."

FROM MR. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.¹LIGONIER May 5th 1774

SIR

Tho I am an utter Stranger I have taken the Liberty to write to you and request your Advice and Assistance for the Bearer M^{rs} Fraser the Widow of M^r John Fraser² late of Bedford in this Province —

M^r Fraser has in his lifetime often mentioned to me a great loss he met with at the Battle of the Meadows, and amongst his Papers, after his Death, an Account of it was found — The Colony of Virginia have always been so Generous to People who suffered in the War that she is encouraged to apply to it for some Satisfaction, and if it be as M^r Fraser told me, she has a right to expect it, the Goods having been lost in consequence of his Horses being impressed for some Service to the Colony —

M^r Fraser has left a Widow and seven Children very slenderly provided for, which to a Gentleman of your Humanity would recommend them to your Assistance, and if the Claim be a reasonable One will also engage you to direct her to the proper Mode of Application.

I should have done myself the Honour to wait on you on purpose, as it was M^r Frasers dying request, that I would endeavour to recover this Claim for his

¹ Major-General Arthur St. Clair was born in Thurso, Caithness, Scotland, in 1734; died in Greensburg, Pa., August 31, 1818.

² Lieutenant John Fraser, whose home on the Monongahela, six miles south of the site of Fort Du Quesne, was seized by the French in 1754, and who, with Captain Trent, was tried by a court-martial for absence from the fort when it was surrendered to the French by Ensign Ward, April 17, 1754; but was exonerated and afterwards promoted.

Children, and I had procured introductory Letters from M^r. Allen & Doctor Smith, but some Affairs that have lately happened in this Country, render it improper for me to Go to Virginia at present — the Storm will blow over by & by when I shall have an Opportunity to deliver them. I Am

Sir

Your very Humble and
most Obedient Servant

A^R S^T CLAIR

FROM MR. VALENTINE CRAWFORD.¹

DEAR COLO)

JACOBS CREEKE May 6th 1774

I am Sorry to Enform you the disturbance between the white people and the Indens has prevented My going down the River as all the Jentlemen that went down is Returnd and Chefley Lost all there bagage as I have wrote More pertickler in My other and will Refair you to My Brother Letter for the News

I got My Canews and all My provisions Redy and Should have Set of in 2 or 3 days but for this arup-tion braking out which I bleve wase as much the White people falt as the Indens which has all Most Runed all the Setlers over the Monongahela as the[y] Ran as bad as they did in the year 1756 and fifty Sevin down in Fredrick County there wase More then one thousand people Crosed the Monongahela in one day — So that I thought it dangrous to goe

¹ Indorsed by Washington : " Inclosing a deed and giving an Acc^t. of my Servants and the business which was entrusted to his management."

down with So Much of your property and So Came to a Resolution to Send my Son down to you to know what I must doe with your Sarvents and goods and how I must act with your hirelings as to the goods I have Stored them up and I went to M^r Simson as Soon as I Came up and ofered him Som of the Carpenters and all the Sarvents but he Refused taking of them for fear they would Run away but he has Now agreed to take Som of both the Carpenters to get the framing for the mill and the Sarvents to dig the Reace

Stephens Say he Is agreed to quit on provisor the Indens Should be att peace and you will Employ him again as he has got all his tools out here and it is out of His power as he has got now Carages to get them back again and I am afraid I Shall be oblige to Build a fort till this aruption is over which I am in hopes will Not Last Long But I hope you will write me full Instrutions what I must doe M^r Simson yesterday Seemed verely Much Sceard But I Cheard him up all I Could Butt him and his Neibours Seemed to ConClude to Build a fort if times growd any worse and I am abuilding of a Kind of block house My Selfe and have Employd Som of your Carpenters in hilping of me whih I Shell Setle with you for I have Run you to as Little Cost as posable I Can for provisor as our Journey is Stopt but if peace Should be Made Soon I Shall proced as I have My Canews Redy with out you order Me to the Contrarey when My Son Returns as you are Largeley Engaged for Me and So Kindley wase My Security to the Sheriff I have Sent you a Bill of Sale [?] of my Land I Live

on for fear of accidaents in war as you are the Last man in the world I Should Chuse to be Looser by by Me En Case if I Cant goe down the River for you if you Should Chuse to Sell the Sarvants My Brother William Crawford wants two of them and I want two of them but if there is the Lest Chance of going I am Redy and willing to Serve you to the best of My ability

and am dear Sir your Most Hble Sarvent

VALE: CRAWFORD

FROM MR. VALENTINE CRAWFORD.

DEAR SIR)

JACOBS CREEKE May 7th 1774

I am Sorrey to Enform you the Indens have Stopt all the Gentlemen from going down the River In the first place the Indens Kild one Murphy a trader and wounded and a Nother and Robed the Canews which Elarmed the Jentlemen verey Much and Michal Crisop tuck [a] partey of Men and went and way Laid Som Canews that wase going down the River and Shot two Endins out of them and Scalped them and Eme-dently Raised a party and tuck Canews and forlowed a party of Endens from wheeling down to the Little Conaway and Came up with them and Kild three and wounded Severell the the Endens wounded three one of which wase verey Bad he wase Shot through and the other two but Slightly and on Saturday Last about 12 Clock thare was one greete house and about 20 men fell on a party of Endens at the Mouth of yalow Creek and Kild 10 of them and brought

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away one Child a prisoner which is Now att my Brother william Crawfords¹ all this Alarming Surcomstances has put it out of My power to Execute your bisness I therefore Come to a Reselution to Send My Son down to you to Let you know of this Disagreeable disapiontment we have Met with and allso to know what I must doe with your Carpenters Sarvents and goods for this Elarm has Made the people Move from over the Monongahela of[f] Shirtee and Racoon as fast as Ever you Saw them in the year 1756 or 57 down in fredrick County in virginia there Wase more than one thousand people Crossed the Monongahela in one day at three ferreys that is Not one Mile apart Mr Simson Seems Much fritned att this alarm Butt I went to him the day after I got home to Jacobs Creeke and offered him all the Serv^{ts} and Som of the Carpenters as I wase oblige [to] Make My Canews our Selves the Carpenters was oblige to worke att them and jest as I had got our Canews and got our provisons and Every thing to Start we wase Stopt by the Elarms as above I have Stored up all your goods and twools Safe and if the Indens Should Com to a peace I am Redy to Start att the Shortest warning your Sarvents is all in verey good health and if you Should Incline Selling of them I bleve I Could Sell them for Cash out here to Deferent people My Brother william Crawford wants two of them and I would take two of them My Selfe or if this disturbance Should be Setled I Could push

¹ The massacre of Logan's family and people at Yellow Creek by Daniel Great-house, and the party of thirty-two borderers he had collected for the purpose, occurred on April 30, 1774.

down the River emedently and Could doe a great dale this fall and in the Mean time your Men Might Build Som houses att your Bottom or att the great Medows or as I Mentioned the Carpenters would be willing to be Discharged if you would be willing to Employ them again as Soon [as] this disturbance is over pray give Me full Instrutions how to act in this trouble afair and I am dear Sir your Most Hble Sarvent

VALE: CRAWFORD

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

SIR/

May y^e 8th 1774

Inclosed you have the Drafts of the round bottom and your Shirtees Land don Agreeable to M^r Lewis Derection¹ — I Should have Sent ~~it~~^{them} from Stanton but M^r Lewis had set out for Cheet river before I got there, and I wanted him to See the Returns before I Sent them to you I was Still Disopinted, before I cold Return back again M^r Lewis Sit [out for] hom again and I understand he will be in Williamsburgh soon, If the Returns Dose not do you can have them altred., if you Should not Chuse to enter them Names in the Return now maid for the round bottom I have Sent you a blank to fill up^{which} you may do your self — I Suppose by this time Varrious reports has reached you I have given my Self Som

¹ Thomas Lewis, surveyor of Augusta County, Va. During the year 1774, Crawford surveyed and returned to his office 4153 acres for different persons. — BUTTERFIELD.

Trouble to acquaint my Self with the truth of matters but there is Som Douts remains in Som facts but as well as I can I shall give you best Account I can .

The Survayors that went Down the Kanaway¹ as reports gos was Stopt by the Shawnee Endiens upon which Som of the white People Sit on Som Endiens and has Kill^d Severall, took 30 horse Loads of Skins near the mouth of Syotha,² on which news and Expecting a Endien war Mr Crisap and Som other people fell on Som other Endiens at the mouth of Pipe Creek and Kill^d 3 Ediens and Scalped them Daniel Great house and Som others fell on Som at the mouth of Yellow Creek and Kill^d and Scalpd teen and took one Child about 2 Months old which is now at my house have taken the Child from a woman that it had bin given to

Our inhabitints is much Alarm^d, many hundreds haveing gon over the mountain and the hole Country Avactuated³ as far as monongahalia and many on this Side monongahalia is gone over the Mountain in Short a war is every momint Expected we^{have} a Council now with them what will be the event I do not now⁴

¹ A notice of a meeting of "several assistant surveyors" and the soldiers claiming bounty land, to be held on April 14, at the mouth of the Great Kanawha, was published by William Preston in the *Maryland Gazette* on March 10, 1774.

² Scioto.

³ evacuated.

⁴ "There were several Chiefs of the *Delawares*, and the Deputy of the *Six Nations* (*Goyasutka*), with eight others of the *Seneca* tribe, at *Pittsburg*, by Mr. *Croghan's* advice. They were called together and I made a short speech to them; they received it with pleasure, and in return gave the strongest assurances that they wished for nothing more than to continue in peace with this Province, and to become as one people. I think there can be no doubt of the sincerity of the *Delawares*." — Arthur St. Clair to Governor Penn, May 29, 1774, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, vol. i

I am now Seting out to Fort pitt at the head of one hundred men many other[s] is to meet me at Fort pitt and Wheeling where we shall watch the Motions of the Endiens and shall Act Accordingly

we are in great want of some Proper person to Direct us ho may have comand M^r Connely ho now comands haveing Accur^d¹ the Displeashure of the People being but unably to do it, for two Reasons, one is that Contrediction betwen us and the pensilvaniens and the other he Rather cary Matters to much in the Military way, and not able to go through with it

I have Som hope that we may Still have matters Setled with the Endiens upon a Method Properly adopted for that perpose

It Seems that the[y] Say the[y] have not bin paid any thing for the Land, I mean the Shawnees and Delaways, the Six nations Say the[y] have no right to any of the mony, the Land being not there property

I would not mean to Say any thing against M^r Connalys Conduct only he can not cary things on as he cold wish, his not being so well Aquinted with the nature of the People he has to Deal with

Fair means would do better, and he cold get any thing he wanted more handy

In cass of a war much Dependence from this place Lys one you Sir, as being well Aquinted with our Sircomstance

p. 386. It is probable that this council would have prevented the horrors of an Indian war, had it not been for the vengeance of Logan, the Mingo chief, and the persistency of Lord Dunmore and Captain Connolly.

¹ incurred.

Should ~~not~~ matters be Setled with the Endiens soon I suppose you will Proceed on with the improvement of your Lands if not you will Discharge your people and of Course Your Sarvants will be Sold, in that case I Should be Glad to take 2 of them if you are Willing in a few day[s] you will be better Advised and the[n] you will be more able to Determine one maters

I am Sir your most

Hum^e Sarvant

W CRAWFORD

FROM MR. VALENTINE CRAWFORD.

DEAR SIR GISTS¹ the 13th of May 1774

to Lett you Now all your Sarvents is well and None Runaway M^r Simson has got as Meney of the Carpenters as he Can fine work for and hes got Som of the Sarvents Esisting about the Seat for the Mill till this Storm of the Indens Blows over

we this day Receved Som News from wheeling and Severall of the Inhabitanes of that part is gon Back and planten of there Corn David Shephard² that Lives down att wheeling Moved his fameley up to My house but he is gon back him Selfe and is planting of his Corn So I am Shore if he Can Stay

¹ Now Mount Braddock, Fayette County, Pa., the former home, it will be remembered, of Christopher Gist, the first white settler west of the Alleghany Mountains. Gist was not alive at the above date. — BUTTERFIELD.

² David Shepherd was long a prominent citizen of the West. As Lieutenant of Ohio County, Va., he rendered very efficient service, during the Revolution, in protecting the country along the Ohio River, above and below Wheeling, from savage incursions. — BUTTERFIELD.

att wheeling I Can goe down with your men and goe
to worke ~~untill the~~ on your Land Butt tell My Son
whence I have Sent to you Returns I Shall Lett M^r
Simson Keep all the Men he Chuses both Carpen-
ters and Sarvents as for the Labour[er]s I Employd
both for you and Docter Crake I have discharg^d
[them] and they are gon with My brother william
under pay as Militia to gard the people down about
Shirtee to get there Stocks away as meney of the
Inhabitanes Ran away and Left Every thing they had
behind them butt there is Numbers of them Sene Re-
turning back and planting there Corn butt has Left
there wifes and Children behind them in our Nea-
bourhood So I would fain hope to goe down yeat if
we have No worse News in a Short time butt waights
for My Son Returning with an answer from you I
wrote you very fully by him and Write this Line or
two by M^r Johnson¹ as he wase agoing Straight to
williamsburg where he would meet with you So pray
wright Me verey fully how I am to act and I am dear
Sir your Most Hble Serv^t

VALE: CRAWFORD

NB

I Saw Som Gentlemen Who Cam verey
Letly from williamsburg att My house
Last Night and they Say there will [be]
a New County take pleac and the Lordonmore²
has Set for the procklimation that he will find
both Men and Money to Defend our Counties
So as I gave you a hint before I hope you wont fer-

¹ Addressed, "pr favour of M^r Ben Johnson."

² Lord Dunmore.

get me and My Son as we are determed to Stay on the frounteers and a Comition would be of great advantage to us and it will ad to the favours from

V C

FROM ROBERT ADAM, ESQ.

ALEXANDRIA May 17th 1774

SIR

Our Rum Petition and also one for the Inspection of herrings was forwarded to you yesterday by Post and hope it will be in time, Along with each there is a little Memorandum for your perruseall, As the greatest difficulty seems to Arise in raiseing a Sum equivalent to that now raised on Rum imported I am in great hopes that will in some measure be Obviated when the Mode now proposed is duely Considered I think it must at least Raise a Sum equall to any that has been Yearly Colected for some time past, and as the present fund is rather declineing than encreassing, it might be some encouragement for Adopting the other, which would in all probability yearly incresse, Add to this the many Advantages [that] would Arise to y^e Community from the natureall incress we might reasonably expect in the West India Trade, gives some hopes your Honourable House will judge it reasonable and make tryal of it, if only for a short time, when the Advantages of it may more Clearly appear, I wish heartly it may Succeed

The other Petition for herrings we have just hinted what we thought most essentiall, and as both Coll^o

West & you are well aquanted in that Branch we hope you will add any thing you think may be wanting to it and we hope if the Law is past it will ^{be} the Means of fixing the Credit of our Fishing in Potowmack River — You have also another petition which I have but lately heard of, that is praying an Addition to our town, The extraordinary price that Lotts have lately sold for here does very Sufficiently ^{show} the real necessity there is for an Addition, there has been within this month a Number of very respectable people tradesmen & others come here to Settle, and for want of Houses to Sett down in and the prospect of getting any part of a Lott on reasonable terms, have been Oblidged to return from whence they came, You Are very Senceable that the Success and raise of this place must be a very great Advantage to the Country around it in generall and as a Friend to both I hope you will use all your Influence to Obtain it, it is imagined by some, that it will meet with some Oposition from some of M^r John Alexanders Friends on Account of his present Melancholy Situation and his not joining in the Petition, should that be the case, and they should ^{not} incline to Include his Land in the Additions we would rather than Fail in it have an equal Number of Lotts Added to the uper part of the Town on M^r Baldwin Dades Land who has Signed & Consented to its being done as Also M^r Carlyle & M^r Charles Alexanders, No Advantages is intended to be taken of M^r Alexander, Indeed the Addition will rather be against the present holders of Lotts in Alexandria as it must lessen Considerably

their Value for a While, but considered as a real Benefit its generally agreed to — And hope & wish for your Friendly Assistance —

M^r: Lund Washington communicated to me part of your letter regarding the Damage done the Wheat, There will undoubtedly be a very great & generall Loss but I have great reason^{to believe} that it will not be so bad as its generally represented in Loudon there will be I'm told about half Crops or rather [covered by seal] this I have from Isrel Thompson & others. I do not think it will [covered by seal] Effect our present Markets in Flower And I think you had better sell your Flower as oportunitys offer at a reasonable price, but you will by this time from Information be better able to judge when you can Spare a leasure Moment I should be much Oblidged to you for a Line what Success you think our petition will meet with

I am Most Respectfully

Sir Your Most Humb: Serv^t

ROBERT ADAM

FROM MR. EDWARD SNICKERS.

DEAR SIR,

I have received a Letter from M^r: Hughes directed to you,¹ and One to William Bird Esq^r: to your care; which please to deliver; And the Contents (I believe) is, to get him his Warrants for his Lands, which, I hope, you will endeavour to do, and send them to me by the Bearer, M^r: Smith, and I will take them to

¹ See *ante*, p. 353.

him immediately, that he may make Sale of One of them to get himself out of Prison. I offered to be his Bail, to deliver him safe back to Prison, provided they wou'd let him have One Month, to go to Williamsburg and get this Land, which they r [mutilated] do; without Security that lived in the County, for his good [mutilated] ur; And to pay his Prison fees down; which is Eighty Pounds, or upwards: And without you and Colonel Bird will stand his friends, and get his Warrants for him, he has no other Chance. All from,

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant

NB. If we cou'd make up EDWARD SNICKERS
a Subscription, to get him May 20th 1774. —
out, I will pay Ten pounds.¹

FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

DEAR SIR

We have obtained a Judgement vs Doctor Savage for the whole Sum that we expected, amounting to £600, and upwards. I have since spoke to Doctor Savage on the Matter. He now proposes to leave the Affair to Arbitration, alledging the Equity he might have in a Court of Chancery on Account of

¹ "Enclosed you will receive Mr. Hughes's warrant in his own right, for two thousand acres of land, the getting of which, at this time, he must look upon as a very great favor, as the Governor has dispensed with two positive instructions to oblige him. . . . I got a gentleman of my acquaintance in Maryland to mention his case to Governor Eden, who promised to have the matter inquired into, and do what he could for his relief. Why it has not been done, I cannot tell; but if my contributing twenty or twenty-five pounds to his relief will procure his liberty, you may set me down for that sum." — Washington's reply, SPARKS' *Writings of Washington*, vol. ii. p. 387.

the Deed of Relinquishment entered into or executed by M^r Savage before she left Virginia. I have told him that my opinion was that we had no Right so to do. However having promised to write to You to know your Sentiments I shall be glad to be informed of them, and also your opinion as to what is next proper to be done. He intimates that the Affair may Still be long before it is determined as he has it or will have it in his Power to appeal, and offers to pay the Annuity from the Time that M^r Savage left his House in Ireland, and to settle an Annuity in Rents for the future. This Letter being intended only for this Business, I shall only add that I am

D^r Sir Y^r most Obed^t Ser^t

ALEXANDRIA

May the 21st 1774.

BRYAN FAIRFAX

FROM MR. VALENTINE CRAWFORD.

DEAR COLO JACOBS CREEK May 25 1774

I Embrace this oppertunity by the Express that Coneley Sent to [the] govener to Let you Know all your Sarvents is well and None Run away

from Everye accounts Cap^t Coneley Can get from the Enden towns they are determed for ware and Coneley has Sent to all the inhabetance of Monongalah to Let them no there is a Large Numbr of the Shanee Indens Left there towns in order to Cut of[f] the fronteer Inhabetance which has Elarmed the people of our Neabourhood So Much that they are Moving over the Mountains verey fast but I have

with the Esistance of Som of your Carpenters and Sarvents Built a verey Strong Block house and the Neabours what few of them are Not Run away is Joynd Me and we are a building of a Stockade Fort att My House and M^r Simson and his Neabours is begun to Build a fort att ~~the~~ your Botom and we Live in hopes that we Can Stand our ground tell we Can get Som Esistance from below I Expect My Son back Everey our from you with orders what I must doe tell then I am Much att a Loss what to doe with your people and goods I[n] Case I am oblige to Move what Must [I] doe with your Nails and goods as it will be hard to get Carages to bring them over the Mountains again So I shall be glad you will Send Me a letter by the Express as I Expect you will Rec[ei]ve this in Williamsburg and with¹ have an oppertunity to Send Me back an answer Emedently by the Express who Careys this and if any thing More occurs you Can write Me Sence the Letters I Sent you by My Son So I am your

Most Hble Ser^t

VALE: CRAWFORD

FROM MRS. SARAH BOMFORD.

SIR/

I had the favor of yours of the 22^d of Dec^r-73 which came to hand the 10th of Feb^r-74, your polite attention to me, and the elegant manner you acknowledge the rec^t of my Letters require more expressions

¹ will.

of Gratitude than I am Mistress of, I feel my Situation, and trust in God ere long your behaviour on this occasion will be rewarded in some publick manner, to induce others to follow your great example, Charity with us is common, but steady friendship founded on that principle almost without a president, this troublesome suit you have embark'd in is the cause of virtue, and but for your assistance the wretched object for aught I know might have perished in the Street, 'tis true our protection has preserv'd her Life hitherto, but you, good Sir, began the Work, ours is but a mite comparatively speaking, we have reason to hope from your last, that M^r. Savage's affairs in Virginia are now near a conclusion, let me assure you with truth She merits a Continuation of your friendship for her, no doubt you have often heard the the Contrary, but believe me Sir, I wou'd not on any ac^t assist a falsehood, 'tis now two Years last March Since She became one of our Family, more virtue, and propriety of behaviour, founded on good understanding and Religion, as far as I am a judge, cannot be met in the Person of any one Mortal who must bear the Capricious frailties of their nature about them while they continue on this side of the Grave, your bountifull advancement to her I have declin'd acknowledging as it came to hand shortly after M^r. Savage became one of our Household, and as I well know a Generous Mind declines applause, especially when their actions have a good foundation, thought it wou'd, at that time in me, be premature, but least the Letter She wrote from Whitehaven (which conveyed her thanks) Shou'd have miscarried,

in her name I repeat her greatfull acknowledgements for that, and all other favors, one request on my own account I presume to make to Coll. Washington, that is a Continuation of his Correspondence 'tho there shou'd be no demand relative to business, I have conceived the highest opinion of his Worth, his Abilities speak themselves — therefore shou'd you decline this gratification I shou'd be tempted to lament the effect, 'tho the event wou'd be desirable —

— I am Sir, with great respect,
 DUBLIN Your Obedient humble
 Fishamble Street
 May 25th 1774 Servant SARAH BOMFORD

M^{rs} Bomford requests Coll. Washington will be so obliging as to excuse her not addressing him on Paper suitable to his Station, and agreeable to the Character in Life she wou'd wish to support, but as Guilt Paper wou'd require a double Cover, M^{rs} Bomford imagines on this occation it wou'd be quite improper to put Coll. Washington to any trouble or expence that cou'd possibly be avoided —

M^{rs} Savage was much distress'd at the black Was on Coll. Washington's last Letter, begs to hear his friends are well if not to troublesome presents her best respects to M^{rs} Washington, if M^{rs} Washington wou'd do me the favor to accept of my ^{sincere} ~~best~~ regards aded to hers, she wou'd do me honor [^] ¹

¹ The following autograph draft of Washington's reply to Mrs. Bomford is bound in the manuscripts with her letter. As almost a half sheet of the paper on which it is written is missing, it has the appearance of being a fragment, which probably accounts for its not appearing in either Sparks' or Ford's editions of the *Writings of Washing-*

ton. It contains an interesting reference to the beginning of the Revolution; and is among the few specimens extant of Washington in correspondence with the other sex.

MADAM — In acknowledging the receipt of your ^{obliging} favour of the 25th of May which came to my hands a few days ago) I should find myself ^{much} ~~more~~ at a loss ~~than I can at present~~ if I did not consider the many flattering expressions contained in it as more the effect of your politeness ^{not} ~~rather than~~ ^{of} my deserts — however if ^{in my part of the} ~~any~~ transaction of M^r Savage's Business in this Country I have been able ~~to satisfy her~~ & her ^{to give satisfaction to that Lady & convince them} Friends ~~that I have~~ her Interest has been the governing Motive of my Conduct I shall think myself happy, more especially as the ^{unreasonable} ~~unaccountable~~ delay, which ~~has~~ attended the prosecution ^{of this Suit} ~~would~~ naturally lead ^{Strangers} ~~one~~ to believe that there had been ^{a very great} ~~remissness~~ somewhere — A few Months ago I ^{I entered myself into a belief that} ~~expected~~ we were upon the ^{ere} ~~edge~~ of remitting the Money having obtained judgment ~~for~~ immediately upon which I orderd Execution ~~for~~ when behold! as the Doct^r had one card ^{have playd all ye Game but that} more to play ~~he~~ was resolv'd not to give it Up ~~the Game without it~~ & stop'd the Execution by obtaining an Inju[n]ction in Chancery w^{ch} however as we were determin'd to ferret him out of this hold as soon as possible would not have availd him long had it not been for a circumstance which is a ^{to this Country} ~~publick~~ misfortune ^{unhappily} ~~as well as~~ peculiarly ~~injurious~~ to M^r Savage & that is a total stop to all judicial proceedings for want of a Fee Bill which we were depriv'd of by a sudden & unexpected Dissolution of our Assembly (or Parliament) in May last, & by the unhappy differences which at this time ^{subsists} ~~prevails~~ betw^x Great Britain & her Colonies which has thrown every thing into great confusion & disorder from whence I cannot with certainty, say when we shall be reliev'd —

This being the Situation of things, it ^{does in my opinion} ~~behoves~~ M^r Savage ^{I think} ~~not~~ to be unprovid[ed] with a will as by the Doct^r Bond her Annuity is devisable, and if her obligation's to your Family did not call for a grateful return it would be a wrong to suffer the small pittance she reserv'd to herself ^{at the time of} ~~her~~ unhappy Marriage to fall into the hands of a V——n who ^{has not only endeavour'd to wrong [her] of it but would I suppose} ~~I suppose would not afford her Bread~~ deprive her of the ^{very} ~~means~~ of Existence if he could do it. — I should do injustice to my own feelings at the same time I should discover a very great want of taste if I was to decline a correspondence which ^{confers so} ~~does me~~ much hon. ^{upon me} ~~as~~ yours does M^r Washington also thanks you for your polite ~~atten~~ notice of her & begs your acceptance of her Compliments & that you will take the trouble of presenting them to M^r Savage ^{at ye same time} ~~to~~ whom please ^{also} ~~to~~ make a tender of my best respects . & inform her (as I have also done in a former Letter w^{ch} I suppose has miscarried) that the black Wax on my Letter was occasioned by the death of Miss Custis whom we were unhappily depriv'd of in June-73. — though unknown, I ^{with great regard} ~~take~~ the liberty of presenting my Complim^{ts} to M^r Bomford & to assure you that I have the hon^r to be

Mad^e y^r Most ob^d & Obl^e

H^{ch} Serv^t

G : W ———N

Aug^r 28th 1774

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